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[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.

MINNIE AND I.

BY P. R. H.

Bring me, my Minnie, one fair shell,
Fresh from the sandy shore;
Wet with the last faint, dying swell,
One and no more.

Gather your lap full, Minnie, love,
Come, sit upon my knee,
Toys are for thee, my gentle dove,
One thought for me.

Only one thought spread far and wide,
It takes all nature in,
Seeking me out the more I hide—
Oh! what is sin?

Is it the wayward heart's wild bent,
Like the untutored sea,
Whose surging waves, though idly spent,
Bring shells for thee?

I feel wild surgings in my breast,
I have no words to say,
Nothing but dark and deep unrest;
I cannot pray.

The sun goes down, sweet Minnie, pet,
Look up and watch with me
To see the bright sun dip and set
Upon the sea.

The sun goes down, Nature's wild song
Is changed for vesper hymn;
And I so wild, so proud, so strong,
I trust in *Him*.

Who made the sea, Father above,
Have pity upon me,
And draw me by Thy tender love
Nearer to *Thee*.

Thou knowest all things, I will trust—
Leaning on thee am blest,
There only, though I am of dust,
Can I find rest.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

BEAUTIES OF NATURE.

BY MRS. M. R. EWING.

There is beauty in the fairest trees,
As like warriors bold they stand,
And for ages past have defied each blast,
Like a brave and noble band.

There is beauty in the mountain stream,
As down o'er the rocks it glides,
Murmuring along its own sweet song,
Far away to the ocean tides.

There is beauty in the twinkling stars,
As they shine so brightly down
From the dome of light, like diamonds bright,
That deck the Monarch's crown.

There is beauty in the summer breeze,
As it wafts along through the bowers,
In pleasant gales, from far-off vales,
The sweet perfume of flowers.

There is beauty in the shady grove,
As in the warm and sunny hours
The warblers sweet, their songs repeat,
In its green and leafy bowers.

There is beauty in the blooming rose,
As it sheds its fragrance 'round,
And in the violet sweet, as it blooms so meek
And humble near the ground.

There is beauty in the pattering rain
As it gently falls to the ground, [flowers,
And in plentiful showers, refreshes the
And waters the earth around.

There is beauty in all the various gifts
Our Bounteous God has given,
To cheer our path, while here on earth,
And guide us up to Heaven.

Egypt Farm, Baltimore Co., Jan. 29.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

A SONNET.

BY WM. G. MEACHEM, M. D.

Poor, weary sufferer and child of pain,
How looketh Heaven to thy fancy's gaze?
A radiance shone from the celestial plain
And in a smile reflected from his face:—
To me it looketh as the blessed land
Where pain, disease and suffering are unknown;
Where weary days nor sleepless nights attend,
And nauseous potions knit no sullen frown;
Where bodies waste not; where no cheeks grow pale;
Where helpless feebleness wooes not the couch;
Where mental strength nor outer senses fail;
And where the cripple hangs not on his crutch;
Where health immortal pulses in the breast,
And weary sufferers find unending rest."

Warsaw, N. Y.

OUR ORIGINAL NOVELETTE.

"LINDEN HALL."

WRITTEN FOR THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER—PHILADA.

BY M. A. EDWARDS.

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[CONTINUED.]

CHAPTER XXIV.

The whole house was in confusion—at least the first and second stories. I was comparatively quiet in my little school-room with my pupils. They were in a state of sublime inattention to their lessons, for Kate's party occupied their thoughts, and visions of bon-bons and cakes were dancing through their heads. I found it rather difficult to fix my thoughts where they ought to be, for I was thinking of Allan, and wondering if he would return on that day, as he had promised.

My wondering soon ceased, for Kate entered the room, exclaiming: "Is it not provoking, Serena? That stupid boy, Allan, is here. I should like to know why he came to-day, of all days in the year? He is in the breakfast-room, and, if it is not asking too much, I wish you would go down and see him, and excuse the rest of us. I know it is imposing a very disagreeable task upon you."

"And the children?" said I.

"I am going to send them out to walk, to get rid of them. Tell Allan I know he will be greatly distressed at seeing no one but you, and, as we shall not want to use the breakfast-room, he can remain there as long as he finds his companion agreeable."

"You may reserve your quizzing for Mr. Eugene Smith. It does not harm me in the least."

"Indeed! Miss Indifference, I can see more than you imagine. You had better make a confidant of me, or I may turn informer."

"Nonsense, Kate!" said I, turning away.

"Yes, I have always heard it was nonsense to every one but the parties concerned, but, for my part, I think nonsense is very agreeable—don't you?" And she ran away, laughing merrily.

We had a long, quiet talk, Allan and I, in that cosy little breakfast-room. I always felt stronger, and happier, and better, while talking with Allan. He had not succeeded in finding any clue to my anonymous correspondent. But he comforted me a great deal by speaking of my brother's return in such a confident tone. He felt sure that Gerald would come back, and that I should yet be proud of him. Allan had taken pains to search out some of my brother's classmates, and they had spoken of Gerald in terms of unqualified love and admiration.

"And now about this party, Serena. Are you anticipating much pleasure to-night?"

"Very little; and yet I am looking forward to it with some curiosity. It will be an entirely new scene to me."

"Stupid and sad enough, Serena. The false glitter and tinsel of city life, how paltry it is; and what an unreasonable existence we are all leading. All but you, my love, who, in your little school-room, do more good than these butterflies ever dreamed of in a life-time."

"And yet you wish to take me away from this useful work."

"You are entirely mistaken, my love. I wish you to teach *me* hereafter."

"O, Allan, how can I teach you anything?"

"You have already taught me what a worthless and useless member of society I have been hitherto."

"I! Allan, I never thought this of you."

"Very likely, but you have led me to think it. Have I ever sought anything in the world but my own amusement or profit? I have studied, and travelled, and read, and mingled in society. For what? My own gratification. Self has been the moving spirit of all. Yes, my love, you must take me as a pupil. You have already taught me that it is a beautiful and blessed thing to live for others."

I pushed back the wavy curls from Allan's brow, and, looking into his eyes, beaming with love and tenderness, I wondered if I should ever be to him such a wife as he deserved; and I sighed.

"You must bid adieu to sighs forevermore, Serena," said Allan. "I have made you look grave. Here is something I hope will cause you to smile."

He placed a small morocco case in my hand. I opened it, and there, reposing on its bed of purple velvet, lay a set of pearls of exquisite workmanship.

"How very delicate, and how very beautiful!" I exclaimed.

"I thought they would suit your taste, Serena. Will you wear them to-night, for my sake?"

"Allan, I cannot accept such costly gifts. It is not right. I should feel that I had compromised my dignity if I wore these queenly jewels in my present situation."

"You have strange ideas, Serena."

"And you think me very foolish and wilful."

"I think you are an earnest-minded and truthful woman, whose own heart is her best guide. Therefore I will put these jewels away until such time as you think you may wear them with propriety. But here is a little unobtrusive bauble. If you will not wear this, I shall think you are unreasonable indeed."

He slipped on my finger a ring of twisted gold, set with a small sapphire of great brilliancy. On the inside was engraved the date of our memorable journey when we encountered the storm, and the words, "Thine forever."

"I accept the gift, Allan, and I have nought but this to give you in return." And I placed my hand in his. "It is thine forever."

Just then we heard Kate's voice, singing in loud tones: "O! saw you the lass with the bonny blue 'een?" When she entered, Allan was poking the fire, and I was looking out of the window.

"What stupid people you are!" cried Kate. "Can't you find anything to talk about on such an important day as this? O, you are going, are you, Allan? Well, I suppose Serena is heartily tired of you, and I have no time to waste upon you."

"You are very complimentary this morning, my fair cousin," said Allan. "But I forget, you are 'coming out' to-night. I suppose this is the rehearsal."

"Yes, I am 'coming out' to-night, and am now awaiting your 'going out,' for I wish to consult Serena upon the most bewitching manner of arranging my raven locks, which is a subject of vital importance."

As the street door closed after Allan, Kate stole up to me, caught me by the waist, and, twisting me round suddenly, looked into my eyes with a most inquisitive glance. I understood the look, and blushed, as I exclaimed:

"Pshaw! Kate, you take one so by surprise."

"Hurra!" cried Kate, capering around the room like a mad creature. "I knew it! I knew it! I saw it long ago. Murder will out!"

In the midst of this performance the door opened, and admitted the august person of Miss Ogden.

"What unladylike expressions you make use of, Kate," said that dignified lady. "I have spoken to you frequently upon this subject."

"That you certainly have," replied Kate; "nobody can accuse you of not faithfully discharging your duty. But, Aunt Sarah, tha expression has the sanction of ages. It is very ancient."

"And I suppose that exercise you have just finished is very ancient also."

"On the contrary, it is a new-fashioned dance that I learned at Linden Hall."

"I would advise you to unlearn it then as soon as possible. O, Kate! Kate!" continued Miss Ogden, shaking her head mournfully. "After all the pains I have taken with you, I fear you will never become a fashionable lady."

"Never despair, Aunt Sarah. I have no doubt that, when I have been in society about twenty years, I shall be as silly and stupid as the most fashionable lady among them all, and I think even *you* will be satisfied with my progress."

To this rejoinder Miss Ogden made no reply, but walked from the room with an air of offended dignity.

"You should not have spoken in that manner to your aunt, Kate."

"I can assure you, Serena, that is the only way to manage Aunt Sarah. If I was to put on a meek, lamb-like expression, and drop a courtesy, and say 'thank you, ma'am' every time she lectured me, she would soon grow so obstreperous the house would not contain her."

"I suppose that is an ancient word also."

"Of course it is. I found it in the classics. It is the very adjective that old Priam applied to Achilles. But, come, the hair-dresser is waiting for me, and he wants the benefit of your taste. This dressing the hair is a very serious matter, and not to be entered into unadvisedly and lightly; for, on my grand appearance this night, depends in a great measure the success of my matrimonial plans."

"Of what?" said I, looking with surprise at her grave face.

"Of my matrimonial plans. You are very ignorant if you do not know that the only object of all this display, and the elegant wardrobe father has furnished me, is simply and solely for the purpose of catching a husband. Now there are three kinds of eligible matches. There is the young man of brilliant manners and address, possibly talented, who has no property, but large expectations; then there is the young man with very full pockets and very empty head; and, lastly, there is the very rich and distinguished elderly gentleman, who will at once place you on the top round of the ladder."

"And which of these are you spreading nets for?"

"*Nous verrons*," she said, as we entered the dressing-room.

I thought that night, when Kate came into my room, I had never seen a more superb beauty. Her dress of rose de chine enhanced the loveliness of her dark and brilliant complexion, while the lace drapery floating around her gave a more graceful appearance to her stately figure. She wore her hair in plain bands on her face, while a heavy braid, in which was twisted a bandeau of pearls, rested, like a regal crown upon her head.

"You will do great execution, my dear," said I. "It is painful to think what a number of hearts will bleed to-night."

"Well, really, that is very prettily said, Serena. You have learned to flatter already, after only a few days' residence in Philadelphia. I think Allan must have given you some lessons. But how does it happen that you are not dressing? Reading too, I declare! What young lady except you would think of reading Macaulay's Essays when she is about to be introduced to the fashionable world of this celebrated city. Don't you feel in a flutter?"

"Not the least," I replied, smiling. "It is not likely all these grand people will take much interest in me, and therefore I do not disturb myself thinking about them."

"O! a sudden fit of humility has seized you. Miss Humble Mind, will you condescend to make your appearance among us to-night?"

"Certainly. I wish to look on at the drama from a corner, but I shall not go down until the actors have all appeared on the stage."

It was not humility, but pride, that made me unwilling to enter upon the scene of gaiety; and, after Kate left me, I almost determined not to go at all. I knew there would be many there distinguished for wealth, beauty and talent; and among these I would glide unnoticed and unknown. And then I should meet with Allan's mother. What would she think of the shy, awkward girl who dared aspire to be the bride of her son? And then my mind reverted to the days when fortune had smiled upon me, and I had often pictured myself the queen of such a scene as this—and now. A tear dropped, and, as it fell, was caught upon the sapphire gem that glittered on my finger. It darted its rays of comfort quickly into my heart. There was *one* who would acknowledge me queen, and I felt sure he would bow to no sceptre but mine. I pressed the ring to my lips and murmured, "Thine forever."

Then, with a smile, I arose, and calling in Kate's maid, began to prepare my simple toilet. As I put on my dress of plain white silk, and fastened my lace bertha with a small turquoise pin, and arranged white rose-buds in my hair, I wondered if Allan would not regret his choice when he compared the simple country girl with the elegant city belles. But I had little time for reflection, for Kate came hurrying in.

"Serena, I am glad you are ready. There are a host of delightful people here whom you must know. You look as sweetly as the rose-buds in your hair." And she kissed me affectionately.

"That is in payment for my pretty speech to you, I suppose," said I, smiling.

"Yes, I always like to pay my debts. But Allan is waiting in the hall. Florette, I wish you would arrange this troublesome lace."

While Florette was thus employed, I stepped out into the hall. Allan surveyed me with a scrutinizing glance.

"Perfect!" he said, as he drew my arm within his. "You will eclipse the brightest stars to-night, my love."

For a few moments after we entered the rooms, I was perfectly bewildered. The brilliancy of the lights; the rich odor of myriads of flowers; the sparkling of jewels; the variety of dresses; the hum of many voices; and the music, which could be faintly heard from the distant ball-room; all had the effect of intoxicating as well as enchanting the novice in such scenes.

Kate was claimed directly by some bewhiskered gentleman, and led to the ball-room, while Allan whispered to me: "I will leave you for a few minutes with Doctor Radnor, while I look for my mother."

The worthy Doctor, it seems, had been addressing his conversation to me for full a minute, while I had been utterly unconscious of his presence.

"You must excuse me, Doctor, but I am unaccustomed to the confusion of such a scene."

"Ah, yes," he replied. "It is quite brilliant."

"Brilliant indeed!" said Mr. Eugene Smith, coming up at this moment. "The rooms are fairly blushing and sparkling with beauty. And near us is the fairest of the flowers," and he bowed low to me.

"And you are the brightest of the sparks, I suppose," said the Doctor.

"He! he! very good! But, really, Doctor, you must confess that you never saw so many beautiful women together before. Be candid now, Doctor."

"I don't know," said the Doctor, as solemnly as if it were a question of vital importance. "I saw a great many handsome women in my younger days, when I was surgeon in the navy. I knew one so beautiful that all the animals in the street would stop and gaze at her as she passed, and it is said the dogs never barked at her. They were always struck dumb by her exquisite beauty."

"She must have been an uncommonly handsome woman, Doctor," said Mr. Eugene Smith.

"She was," replied the Doctor, solemnly. "But her beauty was the cause of her misfortune, for her husband got a divorce from her on that very account. He declared that so much loveliness would kill him."

"You must have seen a great many strange things, Doctor," said I, "while you were in the navy."

The little man made no reply to this remark except by twinkling his eyes in the most marvellous manner, and making sundry strange grimaces.

Although I had apparently given my attention to this conversation, it had really been occupied by a lady who sat on a sofa near me, and who had at first been concealed from my view by the crowd. She was not young, but was still beautiful. She was richly dressed, and had what is usually termed a distinguished air, but yet there was in her gentle countenance a look of placid resignation, of sweet melancholy, that was quite winning. I felt instinctively that she was one who had borne great and heavy afflictions, and I was strangely drawn towards her. Who can she be? I thought; and just then my eye fell upon the graceful figure of Mrs. Lane.

"Miss M'Cloud," she said, kindly, "I have been looking for you. I am anxious to introduce you to some of my guests, whom you will certainly like. Ah! here is Mrs. Meredith," she continued, leading me to the lady I had been looking at for the last five minutes. "She shall have the honor of the first introduction."

I bowed, and was passing on, when Mrs. Meredith made room for me on the sofa by her.

"You must leave Miss M'Cloud with me, Emma. I will take care of her for the present."

"I cannot leave her in better hands," said Mrs. Lane, as she mingled with the crowd.

Mrs. Meredith said, pleasantly: "We must not meet as strangers, Miss M'Cloud. All Kate's relations feel that they have some claim upon you."

"You are very kind," I said, for I did not well know what else to say.

"Have you any acquaintances in the city?"

"Not any. All here are utter strangers to me."

"Then I must point out some of our lions to you," she said, with a smile, sweet, but very sad.

She told me the names of the different individuals that passed before us, and described them in such a pleasant way, that, in a few minutes, I felt perfectly at my ease, and, as I looked into her mournful eyes, I wondered that I should ever have had a harsh or unpleasant thought concerning her.

Allan joined us, and seemed surprised to see us together.

"I have searched the rooms for you, mother," he said, "to make you acquainted with Miss M'Cloud."

"Which has been accomplished without your aid," she replied. "I have been serving up a dish of gossip for her entertainment."

"Will you dance, this evening, Miss M'Cloud?" inquired Allan.

"I think I would rather not."

"You had better go, my dear," said Mrs. Meredith, rising. "These gentlemen would never forgive me if I monopolized you the whole evening."

"What do you think of my mother?" whispered Allan, as we passed to the ball-room.

"I love her already, Allan," I replied, warmly.

"I knew it," said he, as he pressed my arm close. "All is as it should be."

Having successfully disposed of my only horror that evening, I gave myself up to enjoyment, and assured Kate, when the last guest had departed, that I knew there had never been a party one-half so charming as that; nay, I would go even further, and say I knew there never would be another. And this opinion I hold to this day.

CHAPTER XXV.

I sat alone in my room, one winter night Stillness reigned throughout the large mansion. The noise of city life in the distant, crowded thoroughfares faded into an indistinct murmuring before it reached the aristocratic neighborhood in which Mr. Lane resided. Even the roll of carriages was not heard at that hour, for the last one had departed to attend Madam Armand's grand musical soiree.

Mr. and Mrs. Lane and Kate had left some time before. I had declined going on the plea of a slight headache, which, however, would not have kept me at home had I not felt moody and discontented, and I longed to be left entirely alone. Miss Ogden, who had also declined going, from reasons of her own, I suppose, was in her own apartment. The children were sleeping soundly in their beds, and the servants were down below the earth, in some region mystical and unknown to me.

I tried to read, but could not fix my thoughts upon the book, and, pushing it away, I leaned back in my easy chair, and gave myself up to the mood of the moment.

A letter I had that day received from Edgar Dudley lay upon the table. I took it up and read it carefully over, as I had done several times already. It was a pleasant, brotherly letter, but it contained a paragraph which set me thinking.

"I was somewhat surprised, as well as Mrs. Wilson, at the sudden announcement of your engagement with Mr. Meredith, as in none of your letters had you made the slightest allusion to him. It seems, however, that he is an acquaintance of long standing, and therefore I offer you my sincere congratulations. I do this the more readily as I am confident that your heart would never have selected one for your husband whom your judgment would disapprove. I am ready to believe that every word of your glowing panegyric on Allan Meredith is literally true, and I hope that no cloud will ever obscure the sunshine of your present joy.

"You asked me once to give you a brother's love. May I claim a brother's privilege, my sister, and give you a little advice? Do not keep your engagement secret from Mrs. Meredith. She has a right to know it, and from all you say of her, I feel assured that she will bring forward no objections. Nay, she will be pleased, I think, and your heart will be relieved from a weight of perplexity. Indeed, you describe her character as so gentle and lovely, I cannot imagine what reason you can have for concealing your engagement from her. Forgive me, if I have said anything to offend you. God bless you, my dear sister, and make you happy both here and hereafter."

It was with Allan's consent and approbation that I wrote to Mrs. Wilson, announcing our engagement. I could not keep this secret from her who had been a mother to me. It was at his own suggestion that I desired her to communicate this information to Edgar. I had often spoken of him to Allan, and he called him, playfully, "perfect brother Edgar."

I wonder if men always have a reason for everything they do, I thought, as I finished reading. I had a strong feeling that Mrs. Meredith would not exactly approve of her son's choice, although I could not have given a tangible reason for it.

She had been very kind to me, and I had learned to love her very much. She did not mingle freely in society, and there was an air of melancholy about her that interested me exceedingly. Allan had told me the history of her life. I had frequently longed to know the history of her heart.

I had now been four months in Philadelphia, and had been, on the whole, very happy. Mr. Lane's family treated me as though I were one of themselves. The only difficulties I experienced were in the management of the children. They had been indulged in everything, and left chiefly to the care of servants, and were therefore hard to restrain. Mr. Lane was immersed in business, and Mrs. Lane was too indolent and fashionable to take much interest in anything but their wardrobes. And yet she was fond of her children, and liked to have them with her so long as they behaved themselves, (which was usually but a few minutes at a time.) But she never seemed to reflect that they had minds to be trained, or souls to be saved. I took a great interest in the little, neglected beings, and tried to discharge my duty faithfully to them, and, as no one interfered with me, I went perseveringly forward, disregarding a few thorns which sprung up in my pathway.

I mingled somewhat in society. Under the patronage of Mrs. Lane and Mrs. Meredith, I was sure to be well received, even though I was utterly destitute of that most powerful of charms—gold. True, I had met with some slights and mortifications, but these only left a momentary impression. Mrs. Lane's affectionate manner, and Mrs. Meredith's friendly advice, soon put all to rights. Yes, Mrs. Meredith had certainly been very kind to me. Edgar was right. She ought to know of my engagement to her son, and Allan should tell her to-morrow. He was very attentive to me. That Kate's suspicions were aroused I well knew. Whether the others suspected us or not I could not tell. If they did they were too well-bred to make remarks or seek a confidence that was not given.

Miss Ogden was very kind in her manner to me, much to Kate's surprise, who assured me that I was the only person in the world, except her mother, that her Aunt Sarah was really fond of. I used to argue this point with Kate, affirming that Miss Ogden had a kind heart, but I was obliged to confess that her manner was often disagreeable—so different from Mrs. Meredith; and again I thought what a kind friend she was, and that before another sun should set, she would know that I was to be her son's wife.

A gentle knock interrupted my musings. I opened the door, wondering much who it could be. Miss Ogden stood there with her work-basket in her hand.

"Are you busy, Serena?" she said.

[All the family had long since dropped the formal address of Miss M'Cloud, and substituted the more familiar Serena in its place.]

"Not busy at all, Miss Ogden. I am very glad to see you. I believe this is the first visit you have paid me."

"I can so seldom find you alone," she said, as she entered the room. "I want to talk with you."

I gave her a seat in the large, easy chair, and drawing a footstool near her, I sat down, wondering what she could have to say to me. She seemed unwilling to begin. She threaded her needle, and played nervously with it. I looked in her face. The hard, disagreeable, dissatisfied expression, so habitual there, had entirely disappeared. She had evidently been weeping and a look of hopeless melancholy lingered upon her features. She had never appeared so old to me before, and, at the same time, she had never looked so lovely. I longed to break the silence, but knew not what to say.

At last she spoke slowly, as if thinking how to broach some painful subject: "Have you any black days in your calendar, Serena?"

"Ah, yes, Miss Ogden; there are but few who have arrived at my age without some black days."

She smiled faintly. "And to what advanced age have you arrived?"

"I was nineteen last autumn."

"Poor child! I fear your black days are coming yet." And Miss Ogden, "the cross and proud old maid," actually bent down and kissed my forehead, while I felt a tear drop upon my cheek. She quickly wound her own handkerchief round her finger, as she said: "You are the age my sister was when I last saw her. Poor Fanny! she had just such curls as these. You look strikingly like her."

"I must have a very remarkable face," said I, "for I have so often met with persons who have traced a likeness in me to some one of their friends."

"You certainly are very much like Fanny. Emma and I have often spoken of it. You are also very much like HIM. I wonder if Emma noticed that too? And yet I never thought HE looked like Fanny. It is very, very strange!"

"Who did she mean by HE?" I dared not ask, and remained silent.

"Serena," said Miss Ogden, and as she spoke she began to sew nervously and rapidly. "I have felt wonderfully drawn to you since I first saw you. I know not whether this feeling was caused by your likeness to my poor sister, or your more remarkable resemblance to a friend, whom I loved better, a thousand times better, than I loved my sisters—yes, and I love him still! oh, I love him still!"

This last cry seemed to be wrung forth from an agonized heart. She fell back in her chair, pale and corpse-like. I was much frightened, but began gently to chafe her temples and hands.

"Do not be alarmed, my dear," she said, after a time. "I can usually conquer myself, but sometimes grief overpowers me. Oh! Serena, may you be spared the great agony of my life! Leave me a few minutes."

She seemed gasping for breath. I did not wish to leave her in such distress, but she motioned impatiently to the door. I went into Kate's room, closing the door after me. I think it was nearly half an hour before I heard any sound in my room, when Miss Ogden called me. I found her sitting where I had left her, but very calm and composed.

"I do not know why it is, Serena," she said, as I took my seat, "that I feel such a desire to tell you the sad story of my love. I have never spoken of it before to human being. It may be that I think your temperament and disposition similar to mine. I mean such as mine was at your age. I am sadly altered now. I have suffered so long in silence that perhaps it will do me good to unburden my heart to you."

I kissed her cold hand, and, holding it tenderly in mine, told her I should listen to her with a great deal of pleasure.

"I was twenty-two years old, Serena, when I first met with Henry Carleton. For two years I had been the reigning belle in the circle in which I moved. I had refused several offers, for I lived on admiration, and had never thought there was anything else worth living for until I saw Henry Carleton. And then I lived for love and him. I thought and cared for no one else. I ceased to care for my sisters. I even forgot to think of my God. It was a great sin to love thus, Serena, and bitter indeed has been my punishment.

"There were three of us, Emma (Mrs. Lane) was then at school, Fanny was with Mrs. Meredith, who loved her like a daughter. I was the eldest, and lived with a relative in New York. We were orphans and had, each of us, a handsome property. It is unnecessary to tell where I met with Henry Carleton, but we loved each other. How I loved him you will know some day, for you have a true woman's heart. He loved me as man loves. With him it was a flame that lightened his heart and brightened his life. With me it was life. He loved me. He told me so; and no human power, no earthly thing can ever shake my faith in his truth!

"I lived a few brief months of happiness. And then came the destroyer of my peace. I saw Henry's eye look more fondly on another. I saw him turn from me to her. And then I suffered months of slow mental torture, for, my rival—hear me, Serena—she who had come and stolen away my only treasure for her *sport*—yes, Serena, merely for her amusement, was my *sister!*

"Fanny came to us in the first flush of her youth and beauty. I did not tell her that I loved Henry Carleton, but she saw him always by my side; and she artfully and surely forged the chain which should draw him from me and make him her captive. I charged him, at last, with loving my sister. He attempted to deny it, but words failed him. I told him to leave me—and he went. From that time he was my sister's open admirer, bestowing upon her the most devoted attentions, even speaking words of love while I was near. I gave no sign of the agony within, for I was too proud to let her witness her triumph.

"But I think, Serena, I could have forgiven her the wrong she had done me. I could not forgive the wrong she did Henry. Had she loved him, I think I should never have hated her. You start, Serena. I did hate my sister. God forgive me! but I was sorely tried.

"Henry was poor, but he was a man of unbounded ambition, and often, in the happy days we spent together before Fanny came to us, I pleased myself with the thought that my wealth would enable him to carry out some of his darling schemes. He had a younger brother, Richard, and it was soon after Fanny came to New York that this brother inherited a large estate from his uncle, whose name he bore. It seems that Fanny had known this younger brother in Virginia, where he was one of her suitors. She rejected his addresses at that time, but, as soon as he received this fortune, he hastened to New York to lay it at her feet.

"In a few weeks from that time, Fanny became the bride of Richard Carleton. She sacrificed her sister to her vanity, and her lover to gold. This is a harsh judgment; but I forget sometimes that she was my sister. And yet she did not quite give him up, but when she returned to Virginia with her husband, she persuaded Henry to accompany them. Whether she was fearful he would return to me after she left I cannot tell; but he went with them. You will marvel, Serena, when I tell you that, when Fanny stood at the altar and plighted her faith to Richard Carleton, Henry and I were there as groomsman and bridesmaid. We spoke not once to each other. I suppose the same feeling of pride which took me there carried him also.

"I stood by my sister's side as her best and dearest friend, while I cursed her in my heart. I never saw her again! She frequently wrote to me, inviting me to visit her in her pleasant home. I wonder she persisted in writing. I never answered her letters.

"Five years passed away, and people wondered that I was Miss Ogden still. I had pledged my word to Henry that I would marry none but him, and I have kept my vow. I had given him my whole heart, and had none left for another. And at the end of those five long, dreary, agonizing years, a new blight fell upon my heart. My sister, whom I had last seen a beautiful and blushing bride; she, whom I had hated and despised; was murdered, horribly murdered with her husband, and innocent little child. The grave covers all wrongs, Serena. She has embittered my whole life, but I have forgiven her long, long ago. I wish I had never hated her, for her pale face often rises before me to reproach me with this sin. Even as you look now, Serena! You are pale with horror. But I have not told you the most dreadful thing of all. Henry, my noble, high-minded Henry, was accused of being the murderer, and the stigma rests upon his name to this day.

"But it is not true!" And Miss Ogden stood erect, her tall form dilated; her cheeks flushed; and her eyes kindling while she continued. "I tell you it is not true! There is a voice here," and she placed her hand upon her heart, "stronger and mightier than public opinion, which tells me he will yet return and vindicate his honor before the world. I shall behold my Henry again, for he will come back to me."

She sunk back in the chair, and murmured in lower tones: "It is fifteen years to-night since he went away, and from that time he has been a wanderer over the earth. But he will return. I often think of him when the storms rage and the winds howl, and wonder where he is. But he will return! It is the one beacon star of my life—this thought—I shall live to see the time when Henry will come back to me."

I had no words of consolation for such grief as this. I could only weep upon the hand I held in mine, and silently pray that her faith and trust might be rewarded, and that her Henry would indeed return. She thanked me for my tears, and begged me so piteously to love her that I took courage, and gathered her head to my breast, and smoothed down her gray hair, and kissed her furrowed brow, and said to her what soothing words I could. She became calmer and gentler.

"Serena," she said, "you are the first person who has sympathized with me in my peculiar sorrows. For twenty years I have borne the burden of my grief alone. No wonder that I have grown old while in the meridian of life, that I have become hard, and stern, and cold. There is but one person who has any suspicion what I have suffered, cousin Fanny Meredith, and her sympathies are all with the dead. You will be a blessing to me, Serena."

It seemed strange, but I was very thankful that I could comfort this poor broken-hearted woman, who had loved and suffered so much. I talked and read to her until the roll of carriages announced the return of Madam Armand's guests; and when she bade me good-night, she said again: "You will be a blessing to me, Serena."

CHAPTER XXVI.

I intended the next day to tell Allan that he might make our engagement known to his mother. But he did not come to see me. Late in the morning I received the following note:

"As this is Saturday, my dear Serena, I suppose you can be spared from your duties. Come and spend a quiet day with me. Allan is out of town, and I am very lonely, and wish much to see you. Yours, FANNY MEREDITH."

It had become quite a common occurrence for me to spend my Saturdays with Mrs. Meredith. When I did not go voluntarily, she sent for me, much to my surprise and Allan's amusement. It might have been my own consciousness, but I fancied she must see the pleasure these visits afforded both Allan and myself. This day, however, Allan was absent. I found Mrs. Meredith in her little sitting-room, with a large basket of coarse clothing before her.

"You are always at work for the poor, Mrs. Meredith," said I, as I took a seat near the huge basket. "I am glad you sent for me to-day, for I intend to help you."

"I shall be very glad of your assistance, my dear. Here is a frock to be made for Janet, the blind girl; but you will not find it as fascinating as your fancy work."

"I am tired of fancy work, and long to employ my fingers on something more useful."

"Why were you not at Madam Armand's, Serena?"

"I believe I have no reason to give except that I lacked the inclination to go."

"You were wrong, my dear. You should take every opportunity to cultivate your musical taste. We all regretted your absence. Allan spoke of it several times."

Did she see the vivid blush that dyed my cheeks?

"Then you enjoyed the soiree?" I said, after a pause.

"Yes, very much. It is not often that I take a great deal of pleasure in such scenes, but I met there some old friends from Virginia."

This last word recalled Miss Ogden's sad story, and suddenly the thought occurred to me that I should like to hear Mrs. Meredith's account of Fanny Ogden. Miss Ogden told me that Mrs. Meredith had loved Fanny like her own child. I did not like to ask directly, so I crept up to the subject.

"Virginia is your native State, I believe, Mrs. Meredith?"

"Yes, my dear, I lived there until Allan was obliged to go to college. I could not be separated from my only child. But my attachments are all for Virginia, and I hope to end my days there."

"And Mrs. Lane and her sister are Virginians also?"

"They lived on a plantation adjoining my father's, and, as we were cousins, we were very intimate."

"I should like very much to hear something of Fanny Ogden. I have been told I resemble her."

"You do not resemble her at all in feature, but in expression, voice and manner. You wear your hair as she did, which probably increases the likeness. Sometimes, when you throw back your curls, and advance to meet a friend with a half smile on your face, I have started, for I fancied Fanny Ogden herself stood before me. Hers is a sad history. Have you never heard it?"

I hesitated. "Mrs. Lane seldom alludes to her," I said at last, "and Kate says she knows very little about her, except that she was murdered."

"And Sarah Ogden never speaks of her. She cannot forgive poor Fanny her lover's perfidy. I will tell you about Fanny, my dear, but it is necessary to give you a little account of myself, as our histories are closely woven together.

"My earliest recollections are of a pleasant home, not far from Richmond, Virginia. I had no brothers nor sisters, but my parents' love was sufficient for me. They did not make a plaything of me, but a friend and companion, and I loved them with a devotion that I am persuaded few children feel for their parents. They died when I was ten years old, and this was the first of many sorrows. Mr. Ogden lived on the next plantation. His wife was my mother's cousin, and when my parents died they confided their orphan child to the care of Mr. and Mrs. Ogden, begging them to take me to live with them as if I were their own. Fanny Ogden was at that time an infant of a few weeks. All the love I had formerly poured forth upon my parents, I now gathered up for this child. I begged her mother to name her after me, and she consented. I made my little namesake my constant companion. The first words she uttered were 'Cousin Fanny.' I taught her to read, and to sew, and bore with all her childish whims and caprices with such patience as is born only of love. She could not fail to love me in return. She was an intelligent child, and well repaid the pains I bestowed upon her.

"Years passed away, and I grew to womanhood, and another love sprung up in my heart. I became the wife of Allan Meredith. My home thenceforward was on the banks of the Potomac. I was happy in my dear husband's love, but I pined for Fanny—my adopted child. I wrote, entreating that she might be sent to me, but Mrs. Ogden would not give up her child. A few months after this a malignant fever swept away many of the inhabitants in my old neighborhood, and, among others, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden. Sarah and Emma went to live with their aunt, in New York, and Fanny came to me. It had been the dying request of her mother.

"She was a fair and fragile little being, and I tenderly nursed her, and watched her as she grew up and blossomed into girlhood with such pride as a mother feels for her only daughter. I passed through heavy afflictions in those years. One by one I saw my little ones laid under the green sod, and, last of all, my husband. Little Allan only was left to me. And then I reaped the reward of my love and kindness to Fanny. She was the Angel of Consolation to our afflicted household. She nursed the sick, and wept for the dead, and when the Destroying Angel, who had remained with us so long, departed on his fearful mission to some other household, she revived my fainting spirits, and shed tears of healing upon my bruised heart.

"But I must not linger over my own sorrows. I pass on to another period in the life of my darling. The time came when she left me for another. This was hard to bear, but I knew it must be so, and Richard Carleton was worthy of Fanny Ogden. In our former neighborhood there was a beautiful place, called Ravenswood. It was owned by Richard Carleton, a selfish, miserly old bachelor, whom nobody liked. He had a brother living a few miles distant, who was entirely different. George Carleton was generous and hospitable. Indeed, he entertained in a style disproportioned to his means. The consequence was that, at his death, his two sons, Henry and Richard, were left almost penniless. These brothers were strikingly alike in face and figure. It was difficult for strangers to tell them apart, but in disposition and manner they were totally different. Richard, the younger, had a loveliness and tenderness of character almost feminine, united to a man's strength of intellect. Henry had some noble traits, but they were all obscured by his violent temper and inordinate ambition. This last worked his ruin. It made him selfish and mercenary. He was what is called a 'fascinating man.' He made many more friends than Richard, but it was observable that the latter kept his the longest.

"These young men had both been favorites with my husband, and when I heard of the death of their father, I wrote for them to come and spend some time with me. Henry had already gone to New York, but Richard came. I soon loved him, but I did not think my little Fanny would learn to love him also. I had thought of her only as a child. He stole her away, but it was all my own fault, and so I told him when he confessed his love. I wished them to be married at once, for I never approved of long engagements; but Richard was too proud to marry a rich girl while he himself was penniless. He left us to 'seek his fortune,' as he termed it. Fortune, however, came to him. About a year after he left us, his uncle died, and bequeathed him the whole of his large property, for his name, he said in the will, but Henry had never been a favorite of his.

"Meantime Fanny had spent some months in New York, with her relatives. It was the first time she had ever left me, and it was not without some misgivings that I let her go. It was there she met with Henry Carleton. She felt interested in him, because he was the brother of her affianced husband, and, as I said before, he resembled him in many respects. At that time Henry was secretly engaged to Sarah Ogden. Had the two sisters confided in each other, the result might have been very different. I cannot tell why Henry deserted Sarah for Fanny. The elder sister was equally as beautiful, wealthy and accomplished as the younger. It may be that he never really loved Sarah. Her whole conduct proved he had neither, Serena. Sarah is greatly changed. In the stern and peevish old maid, I have lost all trace of the brilliant and beautiful, though rather haughty, city belle. What a blight the evil passions of one man has thrown over many hearts! And yet Sarah still thinks him true and noble!"

"It may be he is entirely innocent. I cannot help feeling that Miss Ogden's heart speaks truly in this matter."

THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER.

PHILADELPHIA:

Wednesday Morning, February 20, 1861.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Have been the theme of many interesting descriptions, but those who have seen only mountains like the Alleghanies, and other regular ranges, can have but a very imperfect idea of the Rocky Mountains. The base of this immense chain of mountains is so wide, and the ascent so gentle and gradual, that the *mountains* are only discernible to the traveller in comparatively low and detached ranges of ridges and spurs. Their height does not strike the beholder with any degree of surprise, but he experiences rather a feeling of disappointment. He expected to see immense regular chains of mountains, towering in the clouds, and, like a great wall, shutting out all the world behind.

The great bulk of the Rocky mountains, as a chain or system, does not consist so much in the sudden and precipitous hills called mountains, as in the gradual uprising of the whole country for hundreds of miles in breadth; and the spurs, ridges and peaks, would seem to be but the accidental outcropping or upheaving of this immense earth-swell at its summit. The general altitude is supposed to be from ten to twelve thousand feet above the ocean, and to this must be added the height of the ridges, spurs and peaks, which range from five hundred to over three thousand feet higher. These mountains form a vast ensin, called the backbone of America, and they are said, under various names, to extend from the northern to the southern extremities of the continent of North and South America; and, in this aspect, they are the longest chain of mountains in the world. They are called the Rocky Mountains only in the United States and in the British possessions, commencing at the Polar Ocean, near the mouth of Mackenzie's river, in latitude sixty-nine, and extending in a southeasterly direction into New Mexico, thence continuing southward under other names, as the Sierra Blanca and Sierra Madre Mountains. The characteristic features of the Rocky Mountains, in the United States, consist mainly in those separate and distinct ranges which are best known under their various local names. Near the forty-ninth parallel the Bitter Root range of mountains commence and extend south, bearing somewhat eastward, to about the forty-fourth parallel. This is a wide broken range of hills, without any great elevations or peaks; it is remarkable, however, as being the region where the Missouri river on the eastern, and the Columbia river on the western border, take their sources. Between the Bitter Root and the next range southward, there is a general depression of the hills for a considerable space, without any very distinctive mountain features, though the region corresponds with the general elevation of the great body of the system. The next range is the Wind River Mountains, running in a southeast direction to the South Pass. This is a very narrow range, not very high of itself, and presenting a more regular mountain appearance than any of the other ranges. Near the northern extremity of this range, on the eastern side, is Fremont's Peak, the highest elevation of the Rocky Mountains in the United States, being thirteen thousand six hundred feet above the ocean, and covered with perpetual snow. The South Pass is a remarkable depression or plateau between the southern extremity of the Wind river range and the Sweet Water Mountains. This Pass is more like a gently rising plain than a mountain summit. The traveller in crossing it is not aware, from anything he can see, that it forms any part or portion of a mountain at all; nor could he imagine from the appearance of the surrounding country, that he was on or anyways near a mountain.

Away off to the north is the Wind River Mountains, looking like great black hills with their snow-crested tops, and to the South and eastward, away off against the horizon, are seen the Sweet Water Mountains. To the south, on the summit of the Pass, are seen two comparatively insignificant ridges or buttes, called the Table Hills. The elevation of the South Pass is about seven thousand five hundred feet above the ocean, and it is about twenty miles wide from the Sweet Water stream on the eastern side, to the Pacific Springs on the western side.

The next in the great chain are the Sweet Water Mountains; this is a comparatively low and narrow range, and there are no peaks or remarkable features in it; it looks like a somewhat regular succession of black hills with snow-covered tops. This range connects at the north fork of the Platte with the Black Hills. These Black Hills are a broad and very irregular range or succession of mountains which run nearly east to Laramie Peak, and then turning southward at nearly right angles, extend south to where is called the southern range of the Rocky Mountains. This southern range is the most extensive and the most remarkable of the system. It is very wide and irregular, and extends directly south from about the forty-first parallel into New Mexico, closing the series of the Rocky Mountains, under that general appellation, in the United States. In this range on the western side are the three great Parkes, and on the eastern side Pike's Peak, and the present Rocky Mountain gold regions. Pike's Peak and Long's Peak, which is in the northeastern portion of this range, are both remarkable elevations, being each about twelve thousand feet above the ocean, and covered with perpetual snow. Besides these mountains, there are many detached, separate ranges and spurs, some running parallel and others nearly at right angles with the main chain. Among the most remarkable of which are the Rattlesnake Mountains, on the north side of the Sweet Water stream, running east from the south pass and the Black Hills in Western Nebraska, which form a succession of ridges and highlands, running in a northeast direction from the north fork of the Platte to the Missouri river, south of the Yellow Stone. The Rocky Mountains, in their general appearance, are wretched, barren, rocky, jagged looking spurs and peaks; there is no verdure and no timber seen in their broken, storm-beaten sides, except occasionally miserable, ragged, stunted looking cedars. Though in the gorges and passes of some of the ranges, especially in the Black Hills and in the southern range, there are found great quantities of excellent pine timber. But in their general features, they are rocky, barren hills, which look as though they had been suddenly upheaved from the bowels of the earth thousands of years ago by some terrific volcanic eruption, whose work was still unfinished.

TURKEY AND DR. HAMLIN.

The gentleman who is lecturing on Turkey, is better able to give us just the information required in regard to that decaying empire, than almost any other living man. He was originally, not exactly a clock maker, but a watch maker in Portland, Maine, and a good mathematician. Resolving rather late in life to devote himself as a missionary, he pursued a Theological course of study at the Bangor Theological Seminary, also taking care to pursue a scientific course with great thoroughness. He started, indeed, with the sensible idea that the superior science of Christian nations was to answer now in their case as a substitute for the miracles of ancient times, as a proof of the Divine truth and superiority of the Christian religion. That which produces so markedly the best effects, must be the best system. His own success as a missionary in that far-off region has been owing to the admirable union of scientific with religious qualifications.

He first displayed model railroads to the Sultan, and then introduced the electric telegraph to his notice. The Sultan thus prepossessed in his favor, he was allowed to establish a school among the Armenians, and to have constant access to the Turkish Court. From politics he always abstained, but amply maintained his early reputation. When the Crimean war arose there was a difficulty as to the supply of the troops of France and England with food. Wheat was to be had in abundance and very cheap, but there was no method of grinding it into flour. Mr. Hamlin, at the request of the allied governments, erected for them steam flour mills, with machinery imported from England and this country, and so supplied the whole of the forces with food. Then he conceived the design of supplying the whole of the forces with the Bible, and was one of the chief means of forming a Turkish Bible Society, by which this was accomplished, Lord Stratford de Canning, the English Ambassador, taking a deep interest in it and in Mr. Hamlin's success. After a while, as peace was being made between Russia and the allies, it was largely through his means that liberty of conscience and of open conversion was made a part of the treaty, and of the Constitution of the Turkish Empire.

The lectures of Dr. Hamlin have displayed a minute acquaintance with Turkish life in all its essential features and political bearings, such as no previous lecturer has possessed. He has carefully weighed the different proportions of the Turkish and Christian elements of the population, and perceives keenly where lie the strength and the weakness of each class. The Turks he finds finely formed, yet profligate. They are living upon the remembrance of their past greatness, but without making it the means of progress. Indolent and uninteIlectual, they have fallen behind the rest of the world, especially in the arts of war. Corruption of the vilest kind and dissipation of the most revolting nature enters into every department of the Government. Fanaticism, fraud and violence destroy all regard to justice. This war in Syria, which has just brought down the French intervention, was clearly the result of causes of this kind, leading to a natural retribution, the end of which is not yet apparent.

It has been suggested that one of the best appointments which could possibly be made at this time, would be that of Dr. Hamlin as our Minister to the Court of the Sultan. He is popular with both the French and English embassies, and has done them both good service by his superior science and management. He is intimately acquainted with the plots and plans of all the different Governments concerned, and their modes of deceiving each other and carrying their purposes. He is earnestly seeking the highest and best interests of the Turkish Empire, nor has the Sultan a sincerer friend to good government in his Empire. Yet he is thoroughly American at heart in all his thoughts and feelings, well acquainted with the productions of the country, from cotton to tobacco and coffee, and can do more to afford protection to American travellers and American commerce, which is rapidly increasing, than any other man living.

SECESSION AND COTTON.

Whether, and to what extent, Cotton is King, is the great problem in England, as it is in this country, at the present moment. Or rather whether American cotton is so essentially superior to all other which is or can be produced, that it can dictate terms to Lancashire, and, with the aid of Manchaster, defy all the influences of Exeter Hall and command its own terms at the Court of St. James. England is not at all pleased with the haughty language of the South Carolina planters. But England must keep her factories going, and is very politic, and the question is how far this will lead her to bow to the seceding cotton influences. One of the first indications on this point will be the readiness of Lord Palmerston to recognize the independence of South Carolina or the Montgomery Confederation. If he should do either before the 4th of March, or even the 1st of April, though it might not really alter the strength of the United States, it would exhibit certainly a strength and a power in the cotton interest, that would almost seem to justify the pretensions of the seceders.

The price of cotton is and will be a good indication of the amount of pressure the cotton interest can bring to bear, and at present it would seem absolutely less than the prejudice its movements here have created. That is to say, the panic in the money market has so far depressed the price *more* than the keeping back of the cotton, present and prospective has raised it. So far, then, the Liverpool cotton market has *defied* and ignored the whole movement.

On a longer scale, however, will the American cotton interest gain or lose by this new movement? Will it get a price? Will it command new power in the civilized world? There is not the slightest prospect that it will do either. We know, indeed, that a good many Abolitionists have written a vast number of foolish things about cotton from China, and cotton from Africa, and cotton from India coming right in and supplying the place of American cotton, and that the Manchester men will go right on and never know the difference.

Great revolutions are not brought about thus suddenly. But, in all probability, the day is not far distant when a cotton crop equal to nearly half that of the United States, will be furnished to Great Britain from other sources. In Turkey, Egypt and Algiers, in Western Africa, India and China, the whole energies of the English and French Governments are about to be put forth through the Consuls, to stimulate the production. From China alone a supply can be obtained, limited only by the price to which the abstraction of any considerable quantity of so great a necessity will be apt to raise it.

It is not that England fears but what the laws of trade will bring all the American cotton to the highest market. But the fear is that the labors of forming and defending any change of government will diminish production, and render the negro population insubordinate, and the United States not a reliable source of supply. The result will be that if the United States raises as much cotton next year, the Liverpool market will be overstocked, and the price will fall. The French are already applying steam even to the culture, and it is now becoming evident that the present movement of the English Consuls will inaugurate a new and cheaper cultivation of the cotton plant. In Africa, where the King of Abeokoutu lives, negroes are not worth thirty dollars apiece; in Alabama they are worth *fifty* times that sum. In six months, with proper instruction, such as any inhabitant of Liberia from the cotton States could furnish, the negroes could work as well in one country as in another.

The Southerner must introduce the steam plow instead of the hoe; he will have to manure his lands and cultivate sufficiently to keep his stock over other lands, where labor is so much cheaper. In Louisiana, steam already saves the labor of thousands of negroes in the preparation of sugar. But it remains yet to be decided whether, with improved implements and systems of farming, slaves can get along, or whether free labor will not thus chase away the profitableness of slavery. Certain it is that this new movement of the South bids fair to produce important changes in the commerce and industry of the world, as well as in the politics of the United States.

HOW TO SUPPLY FOOD FOR KANSAS

Kansas has had a troubled existence thus far, and by all accounts the amount of its past suffering bids fair to be exceeded by that of the next three or four months. Even fighting has an animation about it, and the very exertion tends to keep up the flagging spirit of a brave man, but cold and hunger depress energy. They wear out the hopes of wives and little ones, and as each sickens and dies, the habitation becomes more drear and hopeless. Of course it is the old story for famine to follow civil war. Men when they get too fond of the rifle, seldom take kindly to the hoe and the plow. But in this case, it is just those who sowed most that are the most disappointed and in danger. The warrior bands move easily from place to place where food is to be had, but it is the quiet families, who settled in Kansas for a peaceful home, and on account of the cheapness and fertility of the lands, who retired into the backwoods to get out of the way of all strife and party warfare—these are the men, and the families of helpless women and children now quietly starving in their cabins, or wandering shoeless with feet wrapped in old cloths over long miles of snow and ice to secure food—families whose towns are smoking and whose prospects are daily becoming more and more hopeless—these are the people now perishing most immediately, for lack not so much of food, for the West supplies that, as of the means of transporting it to the suffering in time to sustain life.

We see that the politicians are rendering themselves conspicuous and active in these movements, nor is there any doubt but that those who are most successful in relieving the destitute at this time will have a claim on the gratitude of the families whose lives they have saved, of such power as no other exertions could give. For this reason, we might urge men of *all* political views to form committees and relieve distress; Democrats and Republicans, Whigs and Douglas men, friends of Bell and Everett, and every other faction; let them appoint committees, and make use of their organizations to deal their bread to the hungry in Kansas, and wherever else, West, and Southwest, and Northwest, where the people are most suffering.

But there are other and higher points of view in which the question ought to be looked at. We of Pennsylvania have got a great many representatives out in Kansas—men of all political parties, and least inclined to external partisanship. For that reason they are most likely to be overlooked by any party or political distribution of aid. Families have gone there by hundreds, as a sort of extension of Pennsylvania out further West, and the only question is, shall we let them starve? Kansas itself is now a State, and might and ought to issue bonds and borrow money on the faith and credit of the State, to keep her people from starvation and, at least, pay freight bills. The credit of Kansas is, however, hardly a negotiable basis, we suspect, on which to raise money, and might require the endorsement of some of her older sisters. The United States Government itself is, it would seem, applying for the endorsement of Pennsylvania.

Religious societies are doing something, so that there are many channels through which benevolence may flow and by means of which men may, according to their sympathies, assist the destitute in proportion to their State, their political or their religious proclivities. Let each man see what he can do in the circle around him. There are a very few neighborhoods in which a hundred dollars could not be raised in a few days. In a little time new seed will be wanted for sowing, as well as food to supply those who sow. If the seed is once in the ground, unless, indeed, another failure should threaten, it will establish the credit of those who once reach this point. Indeed, to persons of a reliable character, if nothing else can be done better, money or seed might be loaned, and, even as a business transaction, all parties be greatly advantaged. That large supplies of food, and seed and money should be sent to Kansas, so as to keep fifty thousand persons from famishing, seems quite evident.

A GOOD BEGINNING.—Secretary Dix is taking the proper course with the officers of the navy who basely surrendered Government property put in their charge. Instead of receiving their resignations, he orders their names to be stricken from the rolls, with disgrace, for violating their oaths and their duty to their country. This is fastening the stigma upon them in such a way that they can never get rid of it. The duty of those who take service under the general Government is to the Government which employs them. If they do not like the service, or think they owe greater allegience elsewhere, they are at liberty at all times to resign. But to take service under a Government, and basely betray it, or surrender its property, is a degree of infamy which history has not often occasion to record, and then, as in the case of Arnold, it does so in endurable characters. The Federal Government has no right to demand of an officer to give up his attachments and his loyalty to his native State, but it has a right when he is voluntarily in the Federal service, to ask that he shall be faithful to his engagements and true to the oath he has taken.

THE INCOMING PRESIDENT.

Now that the President is nearing the Capital, expectation is on tip-toe as to the course he is going to pursue. If the Tribune is to be relied on, he is pledged not to compromise. But if Mr. Seward and Thurlow Weed are more authorized exponents of his purposes, as the former at least ought to be, he certainly cannot be considered as opposing any such measures, but rather as ready to accept and endorse any reasonable and satisfactory adjustment. The safety of the Union is now the question which alone is the interest of the day.

But another point to be considered is, whether a President taking active part in political party legislation, is not an error into which many of our Presidents have fallen, but from which in future it will be well for them to steer clear. It is certain that Gen. Washington sought thus to be, not the head of a party, but the father and head of the whole country. How well he succeeded we all know. The President is the chief executive officer of the nation, and for that reason the making of the laws had better depend as little as possible upon his influence.

Under the English Constitution, the King is above all parties. His acts have no authority until signed by his Minister, and that Minister is responsible and not himself. But his Prime Minister must always be able to steadily command the votes of a majority of the House of Commons. When he loses this, the King calls into power the ministry who can. In this way there may be a peaceful revolution in twenty-four hours.

It is idle to suppose that, with such a precedent before them, the framers of our Constitution intended that the President should doggedly attempt, for *four years*, to force through, by all his patronage and his influence, any measure against a majority of the Houses of Congress. New circumstances have arisen which the President elect cannot ignore. The President was elected under one aspect of national affairs, and now quite another is presented to him. To suppose that, because, when he was elected, the people chose one thing, that they would, therefore, necessarily and without doubt, choose the same thing with six or seven States in arms, and as many more wavering in their allegiance, would, at least, be a conclusion without evidence. And should a President be so narrow-minded as to continue, through his whole term, to force things through upon that system, the country might at any time go to destruction. Four months have, in this case, done enough, at least, to show what four years might do.

It seems to us that the President, for the country, at such a time, should go upon the principle that his Cabinet must be able to command a working majority of Congress, to support their measures, so as to let the country govern itself without the pressure of whip and spur, or the corruption of official patronage.

Nor can we doubt that Mr. Lincoln will allow Mr. Seward a full and fair chance, and so long as he can carry on measures with the support of Congress as a whole, so long let him continue. But should the country manifestly desire other measures, either in the shape of a more liberal compromise, or a more radical adherence to the Chicago platform, no personal wishes and opinions of his own should lead a President to push through his own wishes and opinions by the offer of the rewards of office, or the fear of all the trouble which a perverse Executive could throw in the way.

Better merely sacrifice a Cabinet than a Constitution. We sincerely trust that what was clearly the original intention of the founders of our Constitution may be carried out, namely, that the Chief Executive officer should rise above party, and rest for his support upon the whole country. Never was there a time when any trickiness or mere partisanship would be so fatal to the interests of the country, and never was there a time when a really able Executive officer, firm and brave to surmount difficulties and carry the ship of State out of its present perils, had so noble an opportunity of distinguishing himself and blessing his country.

SUPPRESSION OF FORTUNE-TELLING.

The bill for the suppression of fortune telling passed the House on Wednesday night last. It provides that any person who shall pretend, for gain or hire, to foretell future events by cards, tokens, the inspection of the head or hand of any person, or by any one's age, or by consulting the movements of the heavenly bodies; or who shall pretend, for gain or lucre, to effect any purpose by spells, charms, necromancy or incantations, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by any Court of Quarter Sessions in this Commonwealth, with fine and imprisonment. The first offence shall be punished with not more than two years' imprisonment, or a fine of not more than $100, nor less than $10; the second offence, with any term of imprisonment and fine exceeding the above that the Court may deem proper. That any person or persons who shall advise the taking or administering of what are commonly called love powders or potions, or who shall prepare the same to be taken or administered, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished as above provided.

The best bill against fortune-telling would [illegible] system of this State. Anything short of an application to the radical seat of the evil—popular ignorance and superstition—will fail of producing the slightest effect. So long as people believe in second sight, prophetic visions, revelations of the fortune by the cards, the power of spells, spiritual manifestations invisible musicians, table turning without the application of physical power, so long will they go to the fortune-teller to know about matters, the proper and rational explanation, or insight into which is denied the limited capacity of their own intellect. Laws may be passed against the professional practice of such absurdities; but laws cannot alter the constitution of the human mind, and while superstition exists, the practice will be continued, secretly, if not openly.

It seems somewhat like a reproach to the supposed intelligence of the age, that any legislative body should find itself called upon to denounce such things; but the "fools are not all dead," as the imposition upon the public afford the most convincing proof. Sharpers practice upon public credulity daily, to relieve people of their money, whether it is in copper stocks, bogus banks, savings institutions, promising to pay on demand and never paying at all when the pinch comes. Confidence men take the money of persons out of place, promising to give them employments which will pay better, and never performing their promise. Lottery dealers flood the State with their circulars, offering fortunes for the small sum of ten dollars, and more modest, but equally unscrupulous rogues declare they will put individuals in the way of making a competence for the small charge of 25 cents, though it must be manifest in either of these last instances that, if a fortune were so easily attainable, those in the way to reach it would at once avail themselves of the knowledge, and not advertise the benefits to others. Persons who can be deceived by such palpable impositions as these, lack the power to investigate facts or probabilities, and hence fall victims to the arts of superior intelligence. In some cases the law can give protection, and it is the duty of legislators to do so. As they have begun with the least of the evils, it is to be hoped that they will extend their regard to all the others, and give the victim at least the remedy of punishment when the wrong is done.

NEW ASPECT TO LEGAL ISSUES.—The suspended relations between the seceding States and the United States give a new aspect to many legal issues in our courts of law, and a new application of well established principles which attorneys are taking advantage of in behalf of their clients. In a court at St. Louis, upon a suit instituted by a New Orleans bank against some prominent bankers of the former city, to recover a sum of money, the attorneys of the defendants filed a plea that the plaintiffs were chartered and domiciled in a State in revolt to the United States and in open hostility to them. The Governor of South Carolina, Mr. Pickens, has a suit against the North Atlantic Steamship Company now pending on the trial term calendar of the New York Marine Court, for loss of baggage and musical instrument when he was on his recent return from Russia, where he had been American Ambassador. The question arises whether the plaintiff can maintain an action in New York, he being, *as he claims*, a citizen of an independent sovereignty which is at war with the United States. To lawyers who follow precedent only, this state of affairs will cause a great deal of confusion. The original thinker will find in the new relation of things a fine field for the exercise of his powers. Attorneys will have to study the political aspects of the country, as well as the maxims of their profession.

FORT SUMTER.—Letters from that fort, received from Captain Doubleday, one of the officers in command, report that the South Carolinians have erected an impregnable battery on Cummings' Point, of *railroad iron*, and that a terrible fight can be made from that point. The strength of that position, as it has now been made, and standing, as it does, five-eighths of a mile from Fort Sumter, will enable the South Carolinians to do great mischief. The work on Fort Moultrie has also been pushed forward rapidly, and its strength is now such as will withstand the guns on Fort Sumter successfully. This, we believe, is the first instance where iron has been used in fortifications as a means of defence, though both the French and English are trying its efficiency in war steamers. But why could not a fort be built of iron, instead of stone. The resistance of iron to any force is known, and blocks of this metal could be cast sufficiently thick to receive a ball harmlessly, as an anvil receives a blow from a blacksmith's hammer. Such iron blocks could be better fitted than stone, and they would last for all time. The expense of such fortifications would be great, but their indestructibility and efficiency would make them the cheapest in the long run. The terrible power which art has imparted to the destructive projectiles of war renders it necessary that additional means of resistance should be devised, and iron seems to be looked to as affording the required protection.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The steamship City of Baltimore, from Liverpool on the 30th and Queenstown on the 31st ult., arrived at New York on Friday night. She brings over $90,000 in specie. Her advices are two days later than those previously received. The political news is of no great importance, with the exception of that contained in a despatch from Naples of the 29th ultimo, to the effect that a flag of truce had been sent from Gaeta to the attacking Sardinian fleet, and immediately thereafter the firing on both sides was suspended. The American crisis continued to engage the attention of the English people and journals. Another circular had been addressed to the various courts of Europe by the ministers of Francis II, asserting that he was still determined to hold out to the last. The London money market was more buoyant, but consols remained about as last quoted. The Liverpool cotton and produce markets were dull, but the breadstuffs market was more animated. In London American railway securities were in active demand.

The steamship Africa arrived at New York on Sunday, with European advices to the 2d instant. Queen Victoria was to have opened the Parliament on the 5th, and the Emperor was to have opened the French Legislature on the 4th. Nothing had been heard in regard to the movements of General Garibaldi. The remainder of the general news is unimportant.

The English Press on American Affairs.

The London Times, of January 29th, has the following comments on Senator Seward's recent speech:—

* * * "Mr. Seward is in favor of doing all those things which he has already assured us will not save the Union. He is ready to repeal the Personal Liberty acts which trench on the policy of the Fugitive Slave law. He is willing to vote for the amendment of the Constitution, declaring that hereforth it shall not be lawful to abolish slavery by an act of Congress—an amendment utterly futile, since it can always be rescinded by the same power that enacted it. But, lastly, Mr. Seward is willing, when the people have grown cool—that is, he says, in two or three years' time—to consent to a Convention to consider any change in the organic laws in regard to slavery. And this while the steamers of the United States return to New York disabled by shot fired from Charleston batteries; while the selected lieutenants Major And[illegible] with an army on a fort, held by him for the United States; and while the arsenals and forts of the central government, left to the care of separate States, are plundered and occupied as the result of a declared secession! This is all that the official view of the incoming President can suggest as a remedy for dangers so urgent and so threatening. The thing which has happened is 'impossible,' and in two or three years we may have a Convention. Alas! in two or three years, for all that Mr. Seward and his class seem inclined to do to prevent it, the United States will have drifted into a position not requiring, as now, only a manly resolution for their deliverance, but beyond the reach of the boldest or wisest of mankind to remedy it. In one thing we can fully agree with Mr. Seward—that if he is to be accusing of his country 'the Union is not likely to be saved,' as he says, 'by anybody in particular.'"

FLOATING BATTERY AT NEW YORK.

A very large amount of war material has been shipped from Pittsburg, destined for the celebrated Stevens' Floating Battery, New York, which has been in course of construction several years, and will be located at the "Narrows," near that city. The whole amount of shell furnished was one hundred and fifteen tons. This vessel was built under the direction of Robert L. Stevens. It is about four hundred feet in length, with about fifty feet beam, being next to the largest vessel of which keel has yet been laid. Notwithstanding her great size she will draw but a light amount of water. The hull of the vessel is built of iron plates, about three-fourths of an inch in thickness, nearly eight feet in length, and about two feet in width. These are fastened together by rivets placed at about the distance of an inch and a half of each other. The rivets below the water-line are smooth headed, so that they will offer no resistance to the vessel's progress through the water, while those above the water-mark protrude from the vessel's side over a half inch, terminating in a sharp point. It is said, when completed, there will be nine shells or plates of iron, with space between, making a wall twenty-seven inches in thickness. Being sharp at the bow, she can be used for cutting a vessel in two. She was designed to carry thirty guns of the heaviest calibre on her gun deck, and mount four Paixhan guns on her spar deck, and furnaces for heating red-hot shot were to be placed in different parts of the ship. From the fact that she is supplied now with her material, it is probable that she is sufficiently completed to be ready for use.

THE PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

Letters from the South speak with distrust and apprehension of the secession movement, and hope that the border States will compromise on some adjustment which would be a basis on which the Union men in the South could rally for a re[illegible]n of the States. The [illegible] contractors received all the money that was due them. The acceptances were given on the strength of the contract. Senator Benjamin was an important witness. About a year ago—he could not exactly fix the time—he received a letter from Duncan, Sherman & Co., asking him to ascertain whether Mr. Floyd's acceptances were good. Mr. Benjamin called on the President, who said that he knew nothing about them, or any law authorizing their issue. Mr. Benjamin next called on Mr. Floyd, who said that the acceptances were in accordance with the usage of the department, and were given conditionally as to the arrival of trains from one point to another. Mr. Benjamin reminded him of the impropriety of such proceedings, and Mr. Floyd said he would sign no more. But, notwithstanding, from April to December, he gave acceptances to the amount of two millions one hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars. The last batch was the 13th of December—the day Bailey delivered the last supply of bonds. The committee have ascertained that many of these acceptances are still out, and $260,000 worth of them are in the hands of one or two parties alone, but which are worthless. The Committee make no recommendations, but merely report the facts. The House took up the special order, the Pacific Railroad bill, the question being on agreeing to the Senate's amendments. A debate ensued, which at an early stage was turned into a discussion on the position of Virginia relative to secession.

On *Wednesday* the principal interest in Congressional proceedings centred in the House, where, in joint convention, the Senators and Representatives assembled to witness the counting of the Electoral votes, and to hear the result declared. The galleries of the House were densely crowded, and the scene was very animated. Vice President Breckinridge opened the packages, and declared their contents, and at the conclusion of these formalities announced the result. This done, the Senators withdrew, and business proceeded as usual. Previous to this ceremony, Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, presented another communication from the Secretary of the Treasury asking for relief for the Treasury, accompanied with a bill to accomplish the desired purpose, but Mr. Garnett, of Virginia, as on the previous day, objected to its consideration. Mr. Sherman moved a suspension of the rules, but the matter finally went over for the day.

On *Thursday*, a resolution, offered by Mr. Morehead, of Pennsylvania, that Washington's Farewell Address be read on the 22d inst., in the Representative Hall, and that the President, President elect, members of the Cabinet, &c., be invited to be present, was objected to, and laid over. Mr. Pryor, of Virginia, as a question of privilege, obtained leave to introduce a resolution for the appointment of a Special Committee to inquire into the truth of a statement in the New York Times, to the effect that books have been taken from the Congressional Library by members of Congress from the seceding States and not returned. The resolution was passed. A long personal colloquy took place between Messrs. Stanton and Cox, of Ohio, relative to an interpolation made by the latter in the report of a speech made by him and published in the Congressional Globe—of no interest to any one but themselves. The Senate's amendments to the Pacific Railroad bill were considered, and the proposition that the Central route shall go *via* Fort Riley from the mouth of the Kansas river was stricken out. The Report of the Committee of Thirty-three was considered, and a speech was made by Mr. Campbell, of Pennsylvania. The Special Committee appointed to inquire into the alleged intention to make a descent upon the Capital then made a unanimous report through the Chairman, Mr. Howard, of Michigan, which declares that though apprehensions of such an event have been entertained, there is no probability that it will occur. Mr. Branch, of North Carolina, a member of the Committee, indorsed the conclusions of the Report, and introduced a resolution as a minority report—although the report submitted by Mr. Howard was understood to be unanimous—deprecating the presence of troops in the Capital, declaring it offensive, and asking their withdrawal. This caused a long and animated debate, which was finally concluded by laying the resolution on the table, 125 to 35, and the House adjourned.

On *Friday*, a memorial from the New York Chamber of Commerce, against the passage of the Morrill Tariff bill, was presented by John Cochrane. A number of private bills were passed—among them one providing $10,000 for Townsend Harris, for negotiating a treaty with Siam, and another appropriating $40,000 for the relief of Hockaday & Leggett, postal contractors.

On *Saturday* several memorials and petitions were presented, and about twenty bills on the private calender were passed. The Committee of Conference on the Deficiency bill have agreed upon a compromise. The Senate bill to appoint commissioners to make arrangements in regard to settling the claims of our citizens against the government of Costa Rica and New Grenada was passed. In the evening session speeches were made by several gentlemen.

DUTIES ON BOOKS.—The importers of foreign books are loud in their complaints against the new tariff proposed in Congress. The present law is a tariff of eight per cent. ad valorem on all foreign books, and, of course, the largest amount of the revenue comes from large and expensive books and book rarities. By section twenty-two of the proposed law, "all books printed more than thirty years from the date of importation are *free;* and this is balanced by the following restriction: "a duty of fifteen cents per pound weight on all new English books, bound or unbound." This new section will increase the price of the multitude of new and important books, not *reprinted* in the United States, from fifty to one hundred and fifty per cent. Mr. Charles B. Norton, agent for libraries in New York, has been deputed to visit Washington, and make the serious practical mistakes of the proposed tariff, as far as books are concerned, clear and obvious to such members of Congress as he can induce to examine the matter.

THE NEW LOAN.—It is said that the capitalists of New York and Boston will refuse to take the new twenty-five million loan. The New York Tribune states that Louis Napoleon's plan of borrowing from the people may be resorted to with success. There is some difference in the two cases, which may be necessary to take into account before the same result is anticipated. Louis Napoleon gave assurance to the nation that the government had power to preserve itself, but ours, by the President's confession, has no such power, and a government that cannot maintain itself cannot give any good security that its debts will be paid. Still the people may have more confidence in the Government than the President, and may be disposed from patriotism, as much as profit, to take the loan for the purpose of helping it to maintain its authority.

AMERICANS IN PARIS.—Mr. Faulkner, the American minister at Paris, on a reception at the Tuileries, presented thirty-five of his countrymen to the Emperor. Some objection was made on this occasion by one of the chamberlains to the length of the American list, so that Mr. Faulkner, who was anxious to know whether the objection was personal with the Chamberlain, or proceeded from a higher source, said to the Emperor, as he attacked the head of the American column: "Your Majesty will perceive that I have quite a number of my countrymen here," to which his Majesty replied, with a tone of earnestness, "Not too many, I assure you, to be agreeable to me." The Emperor talked ten minutes with Mr. Faulkner on the subject of the American crisis, and showed much regret at the turn affairs had taken.

ANOTHER INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.—It appears by the Congressional proceedings that Mr. Pryor has got up an investigating committee to inquire whether members of Congress from the seceding States have plundered the public library before they left, as has been charged by a New York journal. We have had so many startling disclosures relative to the corruptions, malfeasances and frauds of public officers at Washington, that we are prepared to hear of any other act of turpitude charged to them without being much surprised with the fact. Let the investigation go on; we shall at least know to what depth of meanness the professional politician can descend, and knowing the extent of the corruption, we may be able to apply a remedy.

THE RAILROAD BILLS.—The bill for the relief of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, and also the bill for the commutation of tonnage tax duties on the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, passed the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, on Saturday, by very decided majorities.

IS IT ANY wonder that Dickens' later plots are so complicated when one of his earliest novels was All-of-a Twist?

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS.

On *Tuesday*, among the petitions presented, was one by Mr. Crittenden, from 23,230 citizens of Massachusetts, asking for the adoption of his compromise. He accompanied its presentation with a few congratulatory remarks, and was followed by Mr. Sumner, who declared that those who signed the petition could not know what they were asking for—that the proposed compromise went even further than the Breckinridge platform in its guarantees to Slavery. A colloquy in reference to the subject took place between Messrs. Crittenden and Sumner, which was finally stopped by a motion to consider the special order—the Naval Appropriation bill. The proposition under discussion was to amend, by adding an appropriation for building seven steam sloops-of-war. Mr. Green, of Missouri, addressed the Senate on the general subject of the National troubles, and at the conclusion of his remarks the amendment was adopted, and the bill was passed—Messrs. Bigler of Pennsylvania, Douglas of Illinois, Johnson of Tennessee, and Latham of California, voting in the affirmative.

On *Wednesday* the Senate spent the most of the day in joint convention with the House in counting the electoral votes of the States cast at the last Presidential election.

On *Thursday*, among the numerous petitions presented, and which related principally to the troubles now agitating the country, was one by Mr. Seward, from the Chamber of Commerce of New York, remonstrating against the passage of the Morrill Tariff bill. The resolutions of the New York Democratic State Convention, also presented by Mr. Seward, were laid on the table. The Tariff bill was then considered, and Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, made a speech against its passage, arguing that the revenue yielded by the present Tariff is sufficient for the wants of the Government if properly disposed of. He was followed by Mr. Simmons, of Rhode Island, in favor of the bill, and particularly that portion of it which abolishes the warehouse system. The joint resolutions of the Michigan Legislature were laid on the table. They offer the military of that State to aid in maintaining the laws, and express the opinion that no concession should be made to traitors. The consideration of the President's message was postponed till Tuesday next.

On *Friday*, after the presentation of petitions, etc., the Select Committee's amendments to the Tariff bill were discussed, and some of them agreed to. The amendment relative to the warehousing system called out a lengthy debate in which Mr. Seward opposed any alteration in the system, which had had the effect of extending the commerce of the country to an important extent. Mr. Simmons, of Rhode Island, a member of the Committee, defended the proposed amendments as beneficial to the interests of the National Treasury. The Senate adjourned without action upon it.

On *Saturday* last, the vote excusing Mr. Thompson from serving on the Naval Committee was, by the unanimous request of that committee, reconsidered and the excuse withdrawn. Ten thousand copies of the Agricultural Report of the Patent Office were ordered to be printed. The bill providing for the territorial organization of Decotah and Neveda were discussed. The tariff bill was taken up and Mr. Seward's amendment in regard to the warehousing system, and which leaves that system as it is now, was passed. All relating to the warehousing was then struck out. After some further debate the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

On *Tuesday*, Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, presented a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury exhibiting the condition of the Treasury, and asking for the passage of some measure of relief. It states that the liabilities due and to fall due before the 4th of March next are nearly $20,000,000. The accruing revenue will, it is estimated, not about $2,000,000, leaving $8,000,000 to be borrowed. There is in the Treasury, subject to draft, a little more than $500,000, while drafts to about $20,000,000 are unanswered. The short time to elapse before the close of the present session renders it indispensable for the Secretary to advertise for a loan immediately. Mr. Sherman accompanied the letter with a bill to meet its demands, and asked for its immediate passage. Mr. Garnett, of Virginia, objected, and under the rules it was laid over. A unanimous report from the Special Committee on the abstraction of the Indian Trust Bonds was presented by Mr. Morris, of Illinois, the Chairman, and after considerable objection, it was read. The report says thirty or forty witnesses were examined, including ex-Secretaries Floyd and Thompson. The latter is exonerated from any complicity in the thefts, but he, as well as former Secretaries of the Interior, is censured for the inefficient manner in which the bonds have been held in that department, there being no adequate responsibility attached to the custodian. It was ascertained that Mr. Floyd gave acceptances to the amount of nearly seven millions of dollars, or from two to three millions more than Russell,

[illegible]

Mr. Holt has notified Mr. Drinkard, Chief Clerk of the War Department, under Mr. Floyd, that his services would be dispensed with. The manner in which his name figured in connection with Messrs. Russell and Bailey, made this inevitable whenever the Committee reported. Mr. Potts, formerly Chief Clerk under Mr. Conrad, has been appointed to the vacancy temporarily.

OBSERVER.

[Correspondence of the Dollar Newspaper.]

LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 16, 1861.

The House of Representatives held three sessions yesterday, morning, afternoon and evening, and passed the Sunbury and Erie Bill, and also the bill providing for the commutation of Tonnage Duties, to third reading. As both these measures have a large majority in the House, and as the arguments for and against them have been fully presented in the newspapers, and in pamphlets written on the subject, there

ARMY AND NAVY.

LIEUT. CRAVEN of the United States steamer Mohawk, has issued an appeal to his brother officers of the navy to remain faithful to the Union.

The suicide of Commander Edward G. Tilton, United States Navy, created profound sensation in naval and other circles in Washington, where himself and family have been known for years, and universally esteemed. The melancholy act was committed about half-past four on Friday afternoon, at the residence of the deceased. He retired about that hour to a room up stairs. Shortly afterwards a heavy fall was heard, and, on entering his apartment, he was found covered with blood and dead, having shot himself with a pistol ball through the head, near the left eye. He was about fifty years old, and leaves a family of grown up children. About a year since, it was supposed he was laboring under a malady known as softening of the brain. Lately he has been very desponding, and his melancholy has been accelerated by the unfortunate position of the country. It is presumed that in a moment of aberration, superinduced by this cause, he was led to the fatal act of self-destruction.

A court martial was organized at the Brooklyn Navy Yard yesterday for the purpose of examining into the charge made against Commander Wallis, United States Navy, for disobedience of orders; but as one of the members of the court was absent, the examination was deferred until to-day.

THE OFFICERS OF THE NAVY.—An officer of the Navy calls our attention to the fact that Secretary Dix's action is in reference to officers of the Revenue service, and not of those in the Navy. So far no officer of the Navy has been guilty of surrendering public property to the enemies of the Federal Government, though strongly urged to do so by Lieut. Hamilton. The Revenue service and the Navy are branches of public service distinct from each other.

ARRIVAL OF THE U. S. STEAMER CRUSADER.—The United States steamer Crusader, Lt. Maffit, arrived at New York on Saturday from Key West, via Havana. Left the latter port on the 9th inst., and has experienced very severe weather. The following is a list of the officers of the Crusader: Lieut Com. John M. Maffit; Lieuts. James M. Duncan, James E. Jewett, A. E. Benham; master, R. R. Wallace; surgeon, J. W. B. Greenhow; first assistant engineer, J. A. Grier; captain's clerk, Wm. Littlejohn.

ARMY INTELLIGENCE.—Gen. Twiggs, in command of the Southwestern division of the army, with headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, has been superceded by a younger officer whose name has not yet transpired. The same command, it will be remembered, was held by Gen. Taylor in 1845. Lieut. Sill, of the Artillery, has resigned. Lieut. Whiting, of the Engineers, has tendered his resignation, but it has not yet been accepted.

THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER.

PHILADELPHIA:

Wednesday Morning, February 20, 1861.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE TERMS:

To Single Subscribers, one year..... $1 00
Club of Six, for one year..... 5 00
Club of Thirteen for one year..... 10 00
Club of Twenty, and one to getter up, 15 00
Club of Thirty-four, " " " 25 00
Club of Fifty-four, " " " 40 00
Club of Eighty, " " " 60 00
Club of Hundred, " " " 75 00

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Is made up with special reference to the Family Circle. It aims to interest, instruct and amuse. It is for the wayside, the workshop and the fireside. It is for the scholar, the man of business, and the man of leisure.

Postage on the Dollar Newspaper.

To any Post-office in Pennsylvania, 13 cents per year.

To any Post-office out of Pennsylvania, 26 cents per year.

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To any Post-office out of the United States, other than the British Provinces, the postage is two cents per number of the paper, or one dollar and four cents per year, payable at this office at the time of subscribing.

TO READERS AND WRITERS.

"THE HAUNTED LANE," by "Di Vernon," we will try to find room for soon.

"SABBATH IN THE COUNTRY" is under consideration. If accepted, the writer will know the fact by seeing it in print in course of the next month or six weeks.

☞ The following communication is from a gentleman of practical common sense, who speaks of that which he knows. It is timely and to the point.

ED. DOLLAR NEWSPAPER: As a family newspaper for the rural districts you are not only a novelty, but peculiarly happy in many respects. Not only on account of the promptness and regularity of its publication, the freshness and reliability of its news, and the ability, variety and extent of its editorial, but also because of the great amount of practical information contributed by practical workmen to your Agricultural Department.

The bane of most agricultural productions is theoretical science—of no practical utility and decidedly injurious to any who may attempt to apply it. But information derived from the operative workman, who knows whereof he speaks, though clothed in language unseemly and disagreeable to literary taste, is demonstrably valuable to dollars and cents.

Many of your articles, however, are not directly available to us of Michigan, because written for a different latitude. This is an unavoidable result of the extensive circulation of your paper. There is, however, much knowledge to be gained from them, if it is not exactly suited to our circumstances; and, perhaps, if a fair proportion of the department is not suited to our climate, it is because we do not furnish our share of the articles. Very few farmers can be persuaded that they have anything to write about. Their own practical knowledge, slowly treasured up from observation and experience, becomes so familiar that they do not consider its importance to them, nor the benefit they might confer upon others by imparting it.

Our principal business at the present season is getting up firewood, which we necessarily use a good deal of, as we usually need fire to warm our rooms about two thirds of the year. The most expeditious way of procedure is to cut it in the woods "sled length," or as long and large as it can be got upon the sled. Draw it near the house, and as much as possible, while the sleighing is good, and saw it up fit for the store afterwards.

I have tried several other ways, and found this a good old fashioned way. The best after all. I have tried bucksaw, and cross cut saw, by hand and horse power, and find a good sharp axe the handiest, best and least expensive of all. It is said that sawing wood saves the chips, but I think the best way to save chips is to pick them up. They are the best of fuel. By cutting fine in the woods, the chips are scattered among the snow and leaves, and thoroughly wasted. But if most of the chopping is done in one place near the house, the chips can easily be picked up clean and nice, and all saved. I am aware that picking up chips seems like small business, but I am satisfied that it *pays*, like many other small matters when are generally overlooked in attending to seemingly more important concerns. CHIPS.

Ed. Town's Block, Feb. 8th, 1861.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The President elect of the Southern Republic, is probably one of the "strongest" men in the whole South. He has a military, as well as a Senatorial reputation, and has done the State some service in the field, as well as in the forum. He is 53 years of age—is a native of Kentucky—and a graduate of West Point. He entered the army in 1828, and served with distinction in the Black Hawk war of 1831-32, and in the Pawnee and Camanche (Indian) wars. He resigned his commission in 1835, and went to Mississippi, and soon became a Democratic politician of mark there. In 1844 he was chosen one of the Presidential electors of Mississippi, to vote for Polk, and in the following year he was elected to Congress. He bore a conspicuous part there in the discussions on the tariffs, the Oregon question, and in the Mexican war—to take part in which he resigned his seat in the House. His regiment elected him Colonel, and the desperate valor he displayed on the battle-field of Buena Vista, is still fresh in public remembrance. At the close of the war he returned to Mississippi, and in 1847 he was appointed by the Governor to represent the State in the United States Senate, to fill a vacancy. At the ensuing session of the Legislature he was unanimously elected to the residue of the term, and subsequently re-elected to the full ensuing term. In 1851 he resigned his seat in the Senate, and ran for Governor of Mississippi, but was beaten by Henry S. Foote, the Union candidate. In 1852 he took an active part in the Presidential caucus, and upon the election of President Pierce he was appointed Secretary of War, which post he held until the accession of the present Administration.

PLANT CORN.

There is nothing like a hungry stomach to take the conceit out of the most rebellious head. Parents send their children supperless to bed to conquer their perverse wills. The refractory pupil repents during the night, and wakes in the morning quite tractable and in a submissive mood. A similar process seems to be going on in Alabama. "Plant corn," says the Mobile Advertiser. "If you plant corn, you can raise hogs and horned cattle, and make your own meat, which will rise in price with the same causes which will appreciate grain." In plainer language, the Alabamians begin to feel the pressure. From other sources we have aleady learned that their stores of grain are getting empty since the establishment of the system of non-intercourse with the northwest, upon whose great supplies of breadstuffs they have hitherto implicitly relied. The cry of famine is now heard, and the inedible cotton, no longer a merciful king, fades into insignificance beside the terrible picture of a vacant pantry. "Plant corn" is the beginning and ending of the Advertiser's cry. Plant it, by all means—and then learn that Cotton is a selfish monarch, who can do nothing to help his subjects in their bitter strait.

THE PRESIDENT ELECT is to be in Philadelphia on Thursday, and will make a stay only till next morning. The time, short as it is, will be sufficient for the anxious expectants of office under Mr. Lincoln to show how ready they are to do him and the State some service.

MR. LINCOLN'S SPEECHES.

We are somewhat disappointed in the speeches which Mr. Lincoln is making while on his way to the seat of Government, where he is to be invested with the chief executive authority. To say nothing of the tone of these speeches, which is not always becoming the serious situation of affairs in which the country is now placed, he does not seem to have fully apprehended the difficulties he has to encounter at the very beginning of his administration, and which the wisest statesmen in the land would approach with dread and hesitation. There is a degree of flippancy in his treatment of our national difficulties, when he does approach that subject, even in a remote manner, that shows he is not yet sufficiently impressed with their real significance, and has presented to his own mind no definite course of action which is likely to lead us to peace and safety. When Mr. Lincoln attempts to ignore the crisis which now threatens the existence of the Government and the peace of the country, and declares that "there is nothing wrong," or nothing which keeping cool on both sides will not correct, he shows a very shallow and superficial appreciation of our difficulties. There is something more than a mere ebullition of temper in the actual severance of six or seven States of the Union, and the attitude and demands for guarantees of security by seven or eight others. There is also something seriously wrong in the utter prostration of business over the whole land, and the suffering and distress which have come upon thousands of the industrial classes of society. If Mr. Lincoln does not know these facts, and has nothing to offer in the way of adjusting the difficulties which have produced them, he is not the man for the times, and his presence at Washington may rather aggravate than heal our troubles. The apprehensions of danger which have driven the Southern States into secession have been stimulated by as reckless and unprincipled a set of demagogues as ever disgraced a country, but the public mind in that quarter is not the less deeply affected on that account, and it is the part of a sagacious statesman at once to allay these apprehensions, not by treating them as the captions irritability of children, but by showing that he is profoundly sensible of their causes, and as far as wise words, prudent suggestions and conciliatory language can restore confidence, will endeavor to remove the fears and hold out a hope of just and honorable compromise, without which the two sections of our country can never harmonize again. The position Mr. Lincoln now occupies is a difficult and dangerous one, and he will need all his firmness and wisdom to carry him safely through. Unless he can command a majority that is practically useful connected with his theory, there is an immense deal of humbug.

At McDonough's *Olympic Theatre*, the magnificent spectacular exhibition and amusing drama, called "The Seven Sisters," is not only attracting full and delighted audiences, but is exciting the ire of rival managers, who threaten to head off the fortunate McDonough by suits at law. Col. Sanford, with his irresistible humor, also announces that he has burlesqued the new piece and will produce it this week. All these movements are proof of the success of the hit at the Olympic.

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The Great Menagerie of Van Amburgh & Co., in the United States Building, Chesnut street, adjoining the Custom House, is daily and nightly visited by all classes. The collection of animals is large, embracing some rare specimens in zoology. The ring performances please both old and young.

NEWS AND NOTINGS

Vanity Fair thinks the best method of casting cannon balls is to cast them aside.

. . . . It is claimed that the border States will stand by the Union. Probably, but in it is better.

. . . . A local paper talks of carving a new State out of Illinois, and calling it "Egypt."

. . . . "Pa, is the world round?" "Yes, of course." "Well, then, Pa, if the world is round, how can it come to an end?"

. . . . Washington's birthday will be celebrated in New York with more than customary honor this year.

. . . . The New Bedford Standard says that on last Friday two deeply colored women in that city had their noses frozen white as tallow.

. . . . Reliable Richmond, Va., advices states [illegible] candidates," but by deficiency of votes.

. . . . Mrs. Lincoln has been presented with a sewing machine. From what we have heard of her she can fully appreciate such a valuable article, and use it, too.

. . . . A desire has been expressed to let the daylight into the fellow who took the windows out of the house occupied by Mrs. McDonald and her five children, on Thursday night.

. . . . Quip being asked what was his fighting weight replied—"I wait a long while before I do any fighting."

. . . . Mr. Lincoln's speeches, "so far into the bowels of the land," have rather disappointed his friends—he or the telegraph is very silly.

. . . . A cotemporary thinks not the least conspicuous innovations introduced by the telegraph, is that of compendious rapid publicity.

. . . . Stewart, the New York millionaire, was so much pleased with something that Fanny Fern wrote, that he sent her the richest silk dress pattern that he had in his store.

. . . . They have a champion skater in New York who strides, when under full motion on skates, about 22 feet. He also jumps at the rate of 18 feet 9 inches. Where are the Fullers?

. . . . A very distinguished stranger is said to have come passenger in the Canada, at Halifax—Tom Sayers, the pugilist—under the *nom de plume* of "Sellers."

. . . . The latest Yankee Notion has been invented in New Haven. It is a machine that makes slate pencils at the rate of a hundred thousand a day.

. . . . Lord Brougham had in the last number of the review La Critique Francaise, an article in the French language, written and signed by himself. What a bright old "file" he is to be sure.

. . . . During the nine months ending the first of February, the servant girls of Cincinnati sent to their parents and friends in Europe the sum of $61,000. The remittances vary in size, ranging from $3 to $25.

. . . . A correspondent thinks that it our Commissioners to Washington had been of different complexions, instead of one color, they would have more faithfully represented the flag of the Union.

. . . . Heenan, the Benicia Boy, has gone into some sort of business in New Orleans, and hopes to make his fortune thereby. He has nothing to say just now about fighting Hurst for the Championship of England.

. . . . Terence Bellew McManus, who died in San Francisco, a short time since, was one of the refugees of '48, a friend of Mitchell, O'Brien and the rest. He was fifty years of age, and much respected in California.

. . . . A youth, after vainly trying to explain some scientific theory to his fair inamorata, said: "The question is difficult, and I don't see what I can do to make it clearer." "Suppose you pop it," whispered the blushing damsel.

. . . . The smartest young butcher in New York is named Gorman. He can kill and dress a sheep in four minutes and twenty-four seconds, and did it on Wednesday for a wager. His competitor, a veteran butcher, named Darby, occupied six minutes and twenty-six seconds in performing the operation.

. . . . The Carolina ladies encourage their masculine friends with liberal supplies of linen, lint and love—all in honorable ways. Let us hope, says the traveller, that while there may be abundant occasion for the linen and the love, there may be none for the lint.

. . . . Mrs. Gov. Pickens is described as a perfect bundle of fascinations, and the younger officers grow crazy over her. A letter writer says—"I saw her at Fort Moultrie the other afternoon, cutting an immense dash. The troops were reviewed for her especial benefit."

. . . . Miss Rebecca Wiswell makes efficacious syrup to be used as a remedy for diseases of the throat. This is a good time to try it, for the recent extreme changes of the temperature have "left their mark" in many throats.

. . . . Encouraging news comes from Mobile in this dark hour of our country—there is a fine religious revival in the city, and souls are being saved in large numbers, through the agency of a Kentucky shepherd.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.—President Davis, the new President of the new Confederacy, is busily engaged in the construction of his Cabinet, which, it was reported, would consist of the following persons:

Secretary of State—H. V. Johnson, Georgia.
Secretary of War—P. O. Hider, Louisiana.
Secretary of the Navy—S. R. Mallory, Florida.
Secretary of the Interior—W. P. Miles, S. Carolina.
Post-office Department—J. H. Hemphill Texas.
Attorney General—John A. Elmore, Alabama.

Messrs. Slidell and Toombs will probably be sent as Ambassadors to France and England respectively.

THE DEATHS IN PHILADELPHIA for the week ending on Saturday last reach the large number of 301—130 adults and 171 children—of these 49 were of consumption, 24 of scarlet fever, and 18 of small pox.

SOUTHERN OFFICERS.—It is estimated that of the four hundred and forty Southern officers still in the army, fully four hundred will remain in the service, let what will take place.

TELEGRAPH NEWS.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

INAUGURATION OF SENATOR DAVIS.

His Inaugural Address.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 18.—The inaugural ceremonies took place to-day at noon, and were undoubtedly the grandest pageant ever witnessed in the South. An immense crowd had assembled on Capitol Hill, embracing the beauty of this vicinity and a large collection of the military and citizens of the neighboring States.

President Davis commenced the delivery of his inaugural address at precisely one o'clock. He said:—

Gentlemen of the Congress of the Confederated States of America, friends and fellow citizens:—Called to the difficult and responsible station of Chief Executive of the Provisional Government which you have instituted, I approach the discharge of the duties assigned to me with an humble distrust of my abilities, but with a sustaining confidence in the wisdom of those who are to guide and aid me in the administration of public affairs and an abiding faith in the virtue and patriotism of the people.

Looking forward to the speedy establishment of a permanent Government, to take the place of this, and which, by its greater moral and physical power, will be better able to combat with the many difficulties which arise from the conflicting interests of separate nations, I enter upon the duties of the office to which I have been chosen with the hope that the beginning of our career as a Confederacy may not be obstructed by any hostile opposition to our enjoyment of the separate existence and independence which we have asserted, and, with the blessings of Providence, intend to maintain. Our present condition, achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations, illustrates the American idea that governments rest upon the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter and abolish governments whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established. The declared purpose of the compact of Union from which we have withdrawn was to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, and when, in the judgment of the sovereign States now composing the Confederacy, it has become perverted from the purposes for which it was ordained, and ceased to answer the ends for which it was established, a peaceful appeal to the ballot box declared that, so far as they were concerned, the Government created by that compact should cease to exist. In this they merely asserted the right which the Declaration of Independence of 1776 defined to be inalienable.

Of the time and occasion for its exercise, they, as sovereigns, were the final judges, each for itself. The impartial States for the purpose of making up public opinion, vindicate the rectitude of our conduct, and He who knows the hearts of men will judge of the sincerity with which we labored to preserve the Government of our fathers in its spirit. The right, solemnly proclaimed at the birth of the States, and which has been affirmed and reaffirmed in the bills of rights of the States subsequently admitted into the Union of 1789, undeniably recognize in the people the power to resume the authority delegated for the purposes of Government. Thus, the sovereign States here presented proceeded to form this Confederacy; and it is by the abuse of language that their act has been denominated revolution. They formed a new alliance, but within each State its Government has remained—the rights of person and property have not been disturbed. The agent through whom they communicated with foreign nations is changed, but this does not necessarily interrupt their international relations.

Sustained by a consciousness that our transition from the former Union to the present Confederacy has not proceeded from any disregard on our part of our past obligations, or any failure to perform every Constitutional duty, moved by no interest or passion to invade the rights of others—anxious to cultivate peace and commerce with the nations—if we may not hope to avoid war, we may at least expect that posterity will acquit us of having needlessly engaged in it—hardly justified by the absence of wrong on our part, and by wanton aggression on the part of others, there can be no cause to doubt that the courage and patriotism of the people of the Confederated States will be found equal to any measures of defence which soon our security may require.

An agricultural people, whose chief interest is the export of a commodity required in every manufacturing country, our true policy is peace, and the freest trade which our necessities will permit. It is alike our interest, as the interest of those to whom we would sell, and from whom we would buy, that there should be the fewest practicable restrictions upon the interchange of commodities. There can be but little rivalry between ours and any manufacturing or navigating community, such as the Northeastern States of the American Union. It must follow, therefore, that mutual interest would invite good will and kind offices. If, however, passion or lust of dominion should cloud the judgment or inflame the ambition of those States, we must prepare to meet the emergency, and maintain, by the final arbitrament of the sword, that position which we have assumed among the nations of the earth. We have entered upon a career of independence which must be inflexibly pursued. Through many years of controversy with our late associates, the Northern States, [illegible] quility and obtain respect for the rights to which we were entitled.

As a necessity, and not from choice, we have resorted to the remedy of separation, and hence forth our energies must be directed to the conduction of our own affairs and the perpetuity of the Confederacy which we have formed. If a just perception of mutual interest shall permit us peacefully to pursue our separate political career, my most earnest desire will have been fulfilled; but if this be denied us, and the integrity of our territorial jurisdiction be assailed, it will be our duty to repel it, and with a firm resolve, to appeal to our arms, and invoke the blessing of Providence in a just cause.

As a consequence of our new condition and our anticipated wants, it will be necessary to provide a speedy and effectual organization of the branches of the executive department having special charge of foreign intercourse, finance, military affairs and the postal service.

For the purposes of defence, the Confederated States may, under ordinary circumstances, rely mainly upon their militia; but it is deemed advisable, in the present condition of affairs, that there should be a well instructed and disciplined army, more numerous than would be usually required on a peace establishment. I also suggest that for the protection of our harbors and our commerce on the high seas, a navy, adapted to those objects will be required. These necessities have doubtless engaged the attention of Congress.

With Constitution differing only from that of our fathers in so far as it is explanatory of their well-known intent, freed from the sectional conflicts which have interfered with our general warfare, it is not unusual to expect that the States from which we have recently parted may seek to unite their fortunes with ours, under the present we have instituted. For this your Constitution makes adequate provision. But beyond this, if I mistake not, the judgment and will of the people are that a union with the States from which we have separated is neither practicable nor desirable. To secure its power, develope the resources and promote the happiness of a Confederacy, it is requisite that there shall be so much of homogenity that the welfare of every portion should be the aim of the whole. Where this does not exist, antagonisms are engendered which must and should result in separation. Actuated solely by the desire to preserve our own rights and promote our own welfare, the separation of the Confederated States has been marked by no aggression upon others, and followed by no domestic convulsion. Our industrial pursuits have received no check. The cultivation of our fields has progressed as heretofore. And even should war be involved in war, there would be no considerable diminution in the production of the staples which have constituted our exports, and in which the commercial world has an interest scarcely less than our own.

This common interest of the producer and consumer can only be intercepted by an exterior force, which should obstruct it's transmission to foreign markets—a course of conduct which would be detrimental to the manufacturing and commercial interests abroad. Should reason guide the action of the Government from which we have separated, a policy detrimental to the civilized world—the Northern States included—could not be dictated by even a stronger desire to inflict injury upon us. But if otherwise, a terrible responsibility will rest upon it, and the suffering of millions will be the just recoil on the folly and wickedness of our aggressors.

In the meantime there will remain to us, besides the ordinary remedies before suggested, the well known resources of retaliation upon the commerce of an enemy.

An experience obtained in public stations of a subordinate grade to this which your kindness has conferred upon me, has taught me that care, and toil, and disappointments are the price of official elevation. You will see many errors to forgive, many deficiencies to tolerate, but you shall not find in me either want of zeal or fidelity to the cause that is to me the highest in hope and of most enduring affection. Your generosity has bestowed upon me an unmerited distinction—one which I neither sought nor desired. Upon the continuance of that sentiment, and upon your wisdom and patriotism, I rely to direct and support me in the performance of the duty required at my hands. We have changed the constituent parts, but not the system of our Government. The Constitution formed by our fathers is that of these Confederated States. In their exposition of it, and in the judicial construction it has received, we have a light which reveals its true meaning.

Thus instructed as to the just interpretation of that instrument, and ever remembering that all offices are but trusts held for the people, and that these delegated powers are to be strictly construed, I will hope, by due diligence in the performance of my duties, though I may disappoint your expectations, yet to retain, when retiring, something of the good will and confidence which welcomes my entrance into office. It is joyous, in the midst of perilous times, to look around upon a people united in heart—where one purpose of high resolve actuates the whole—where the sacrifices to be made are not weighed in the balance against honor and right, liberty and equality. Obstacles may retard, but they cannot long prevent the progress of the movement.

Sanctified by its justice and sustained by a virtuous people, reverently let us invoke the God of our fathers to guide and protect us in our efforts to perpetuate the principles which, by His blessing, they were able to vindicate, establish and transmit to their posterity; and with the continuance of His favor, ever gratefully acknowledged, we may hopefully look forward to success, to peace and to prosperity.

MR. HAMLIN AT BOSTON.—Mr. Hamlin arrived at Boston on Monday night, and left for New York on Tuesday morning.

AMUSEMENTS.

At the *Walnut* Street Theatre, Mr. Murdoch continues his engagement through this his third week. He has full houses and deserves them, for he is without equal in his range of comedy characters.

At the *Arch* Street Theatre Mrs. Bowers concluded, on Saturday evening, a short engagement to fair houses, and is succeeded this week by Brougham's successful comedy, "Playing With Fire," in which the whole strength of the company appears. It is understood that Messrs. Wheatley and Clarke have given up this theatre, and, in connection with Mrs. Bowers, will build and manage the new theatre to be built on Chesnut, above Twelfth street.

Rarey, whose exhibitions may be classed among the amusements of the day, had large audiences at the Academy of Music to witness his mode of horse-taming. With some little that is practically useful connected with his theory, there is an immense deal of humbug.

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The Children's Bible Picture Book. New York: Harper & Brothers.

This beautifully issued and really instructive and moral book, is illustrated with eight engravings, some of which are copied from designs by Steinle, Overbulk, Veit, and others of like celebrity and art, and from Bible pictures, by Julius Schnorr, which have been lately published in England by Messrs. Williams & Norgate. The sketches which the pictures illustrate are connected with the more familiar incidents of Bible history, and are so presented as to command the attention of young readers. The impression made by this work is of the most favorable character.

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS—2d Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18

SENATE.—Mr. Baker, of Oregon, presented the credentials of James W. Nesmith, Senator elect from Oregon.

Mr. Gwin, of California, moved to take up the post route bill, and asked for a committee of conference. The House he said had limited the amount to $800,000.

Mr. Latham, of California, moved that the Senate concur in the House amendment.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the tariff bill.

Mr. Seward, of New York, moved an amendment to reduce the duty on books. Lost.

A large number of the amendments of the select committee were adopted.

A discussion arose on an amendment of the committee, which lessens the duty on sugar and places a duty of 4c. per lb. on tea and 1½c. on coffee.

Mr. Doolittle, of Ill., moved a proviso that the duty on tea, coffee and sugar shall cease on the 30th of June—not agreed to. Yeas 18; nays 20.

Mr. Mason, of Virginia, offered a proviso the duty on tea and coffee shall cease when the public treasury is no longer called on to support the Post-office Department. Lost.

The amendment of the committee was then agreed to—yeas 23, nays 19.

Mr. Simmons then offered an amendment, reducing the loan from twenty to ten millions, with a proviso that no part of the loan shall be applied in the present fiscal year. Agreed to.

Mr. Pearce, of Md., reported from the Committee of Conference on the Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, that the Committee had agreed. The report was concurred in.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, from the Military Committee, reported a bill supplemental to the acts of 1795 and 1807, providing for the calling forth of the militia for the execution of the laws of the Union, the suppression of insurrection, and repelling invasion, so as to extend their provisions to the case of insurrection against the authority of the United States, and to authorize the President, in cases where it may be lawful, to use the militia in addition to the army and navy, to accept the services of volunteers as cavalry, infantry, and artillery, and to officer the same.

Mr. Bocock, of Va., said that if there was to be hope of peace, it must be by the rejection of force bills.

Mr. Stanton said that the bill merely supplied the omission in the act of 1795.

Mr Bocock objected to the second reading of the bill, therefore the question recurred—Shall the question be rejected.

Decided in the negative—yeas 67, nays 110.

Before the vote was announced, Mr. Sickles, of New York, said—I shall vote to reject this bill, because I regard it as a distinct proposition for formal aggression upon the States. It is therefore in conflict with the principles which, as I have heretofore shown controlled the founders of the Republic. I object to the bill also upon the same ground that I have protested against the organization of armies in the States for the purpose of attacking the possessions of the United States. Besides, while the Peace Congress is sitting, it is premature to declare war.

Mr. Foulke, of Illinois, voted to reject the bill, because he was against civil war and the shedding of fraternal blood.

Mr. Briggs, of New York, said there was no such thing as peaceable secession; secession is revolution, and revolution is war. As a portion of the Confederacy is in insurrection and rebellion against the country, he would vote to vest the President with power to meet the present condition of things.

Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, demanded the previous question on the passage of the bill; but no further action was taken, the morning hour having expired.

The consideration of the report of the Committee of Thirty-three was resumed.

Mr. Webster, of Maryland, said he was against secession. He trusted that the Peace Conference will recommend some measure of adjustment. It can do no more. The vote this morning was a damper on his feelings, and had somewhat obscured the hope which he had entertained of a final adjustment.

On the question of the loan, the consideration of the report was postponed till to-morrow in order to take up the bill providing that in place of any part of the loan now authorized by law, the President is authorized to issue the bonds of the United States of the denomination of fifty dollars, bearing not exceeding six per centum interest payable annually or semi-annually at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, and running not to exceed twenty years, and at his discretion to attach coupons for the interest thereon, and to apply such bonds at par to the payment of such creditors who may choose to receive them, provided that the aggregate amount issued under this act, and the acts now in force, authorizing the loan, shall not exceed the amount authorized by the said act.

Mr. Sickles.—I desire to ask the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, whether a bill is not necessary to meet the accruing liabilities of the Government, and if it is not recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Sherman.—It is necessary. The only difference between our bill and that recommended by the Secretary, is that we reduce the denomination of the treasury notes from one hundred to fifty dollars.

The bill was then passed.

Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, moved a suspension of the rules, in order to take up Senate bill organizing the Territorial Government of Colorado.

The bill having been read,

Mr. Sickles said he was glad to see that the gentlemen on the Republican side of the chamber have abandoned the Wilmot Proviso, in the organization of the Territorial Governments. This removes an irritating element of contention.

The rules were suspended by a vote of — yeas, against 37 nays.

Mr. Grow, of Pa., offered an amendment, by agreement with the Senate Committee on Territories, so as to make it conform to the pending bills for the establishment of Territorial Governments for Nevada and Dacotah. The proposed Territory of Colorado includes what remains after the erection of Kansas as a State, and will be much reduced in area. New Mexico and Nebraska, making about 104 square miles, with somewhere between forty-five and fifty thousand inhabitants—as many as Oregon when she was admitted as a State.

Mr. Grow briefly showed the necessity of giving the people of that region a Government, as the only one they have now is the Bowie knife and rifle.

Mr. Grow's amendment was agreed to and the bill passed. Yeas 90, nays 42.

[Correspondence of the Dollar Newspaper.]

THINGS IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18, 1861.

Jefferson Davis' Montgomery speech, promising the enemies of the Cotton Confederacy a taste of Southern gunpowder, and a touch of Southern steel, has struck the friends of peace and a reconstruction of the Union with dismay. There were many among us who believed that President Davis was a reconstructionist, and that his whole policy would be shaped accordingly, but that Montgomery speech has scattered all such impressions to the winds. The stock market, accordingly, is lower, and things, generally, in financial and business circles, are very blue.

The next sensation will be the reception of Mr. Lincoln here, to-morrow afternoon. The distinguished visiter, before he leaves Gotham, will have a hard road to travel. In the first place, on landing at Thirty first street, he will encounter a myriad of newspaper reporters, each anxious to get his "sentiments;" then he will be trotted down to the Governor's room, City Hall, where he will have to put up with merciless hand-shaking from Aldermen, Councilmen, and "greasy citizens;" then Mayor Wood will make a speech at him; then he will be put into a barouche; then he will be driven to the Astor House; then he will make a speech to the crowd from the steps of the main entrance; then he will be escorted to room No. 40, where a noble army of office expectants will be lying in ambush for him. The evening will be devoted to the reception of Wide Awake Clubs, Veterans of 1812, distinguished citizens, &c., &c.

There is some talk about getting up a procession of all the working people thrown out of employment by the crisis, in order to show the President elect that "somebody is suffering," but I do not think the suggestion will be acted upon.

A great crowd was in attendance at the Bergen (N. J.) Court House, this morning, to witness the final proceeding in the case of Wm. Absom, or Abson, the poisoner of his wife. The prisoner exhibited but little emotion during the very touching remarks of Judge Ogden, prefatory to sentencing him to be hanged on the 10th of April next; but when his doom fell upon his ear, the wretched man was quite unnerved, and exclaimed, "God will have mercy on me, if man will not."

The business in city and county last week, 409, an increase of 43, compared with the mortality of the previous week. Men 85, women 77, boys 124, girls 123. Children under 10 years of age, 123. Natives of the United States, 289.

Another prominent dry-goods house has been compelled to ask the indulgence of its creditors. (That is the usual way of announcing a bankruptcy now-a-days.) They propose to pay 70 per cent. at a stated period, and the balance in the stock of a religious newspaper, which is said to have yielded a profit of $60,000 last year; the paper put into stock at $300,000 shares, to be valued at $1,000 each.

The importations of foreign dry goods for the current week show a heavy falling off, compared with previous seasons. I annex the usual returns from the Custom House, compared with 1859, 1860 and 1861:

For the week,	1859.	1860.	1861.
Entered at port,	$3,414,073	$3,314,692	$1 083,239
Thrown on mark't,	3,533,295	2,599,637	1,542,641

Since Jan. 1st.:

Entered at port,	17,700,899	17,648,024	14,062,174
Thrown on mar't,	18,314,578	18,137,736	9,677,850

FLOUR.—Western and State Flour is more active and prices are better; 9000 bbls. were sold at $5 05@5 10 for superfine State and Western, $5 15@5 35 for extra State, $5 10@5 20 for low grades of Western extra, and $5 55@5 60 for shipping brands of round hoop extra Ohio. Southern Flour continues in moderate demand, 1500 bbls. were sold at $5 34@5 60 for mixed to good superfine Baltimore, and $6@7 50 for the better grades. Rye Flour is steady at $3 30@4 15. Corn Meal is without any change; sales were made at $3@3 45 for Jersey and Brandywine.

GRAIN.—Wheat is in good request; 38,000 bushels were sold at $1 17@1 20 for Chicago spring; $1 30@1 32 for red, and $1 37 for Western in store; $1 45 for white Indian, and $1 45 for white Michigan. Rye is steady at 65@68 cts. Barley is firm, and selling at 75@77c. Oats are in fair demand, at 36@37 cents for western and Canadian. Corn continues in moderate demand. 60,000 bus. were sold, at 62@63c. for old mixed Western, and 65@66c. for old mixed Western.

PROVISIONS.—Pork is in fair request. Some sales were made at $13 for prime and $17 60 for mess. Beef is in limited request. 200 barrels were sold at $5 75@6 25 for country mess, and $8@10 for repacked mess. Lard is unchanged. Sales were made at 9¼@10c. Butter and Cheese are steady.

WHISKY is in fair demand and steady; 600 bbls. were sold at 17½c.

THE MARKETS.

THE MONEY MARKET.

There was a fair amount of sales at the stock board on Saturday, and the market was unusually firm. From Washington and the South political movements are thought to look no worse than for a fortnight past, and news from Harrisburg of the action of the popular branch of the Legislature in passing, by overwhelming majorities, the bill affording relief to the "Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company," and that for the "Commutation of the Tonnage Tax on the Pennsylvania Railroad," conspired to give a cheerful tone to the whole stock market, and in several instances prices advanced. It is believed that both bills will pass the other branch of the Legislature with equally decisive majorities. These things settled, the Philadelphia and Sunbury road will proceed rapidly to completion, affording an outlet for the produce of a rich region of our Commonwealth, besides directly connecting Philadelphia with the Lakes; and the Pennsylvania Railroad, finding itself relieved from the tonnage tax, will enter into competition with rival works on more equal terms than heretofore, and may contribute materially to make Philadelphia a shipping point of vastly increased importance, a prominence it never could have attained while fettered with the clogs and restrictions imposed on interior tonnage. We hope for the happiest results from the passage of the bills named, not only to this city, by the concentration of a heavy tonnage here

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

LEAVES FROM SYBIL.

BY HORACE B. DURANT.

Lift up thy mists, Oh, Time, that hang so deep,
Where ages past in dim oblivion sleep,
And bring, in due succession, to the eye,
The long lost deeds that in thy bosom lie;
So shall we learn, at last, perchance, to see
The coming future mirrored back from thee.
What is a nation's strength?—is it to reign
Supreme o'er land, and mistress of the main,
And make a hundred conquered realms to feel
The iron sceptre and the grinding heel?
Behold, where yellow Tiber's waters flow,
The frowning battlements stood long ago;
And, when the day-god rose with gleaming fires,
His splendor lit a hundred glitt'ring spires;
While through the portals rolled the victor's car,
Rich with his conquered trophies from afar.
Now, where is she, whose armed legions bore
The birc of Jove to many a conquered shore?
Ask ye of all her mighty, slumb'ring dead,
That shook the world with step of martial tread:
Dismantled now, she sleeps beside the flood,
And perished, as she rose, in strife and blood!
And where are they, whose noteless bones are hid
Within the silence of the Pyramid—
Who left the record of their busy hands,
In lonely grandeur on the burning sands?
Alone, they stand, defying still decay,
While those who built them there have passed away!
Thy visage, Ammon, by the wand'ring Nile,
No more is clothed with grave and awful smile;
And Memnon hath forgot those thrilling strains
That woke, when morning lit Ægypt's plains;
Within the Sphynx's dreaming eye of stone,
There sleeps a volume of the past unknown,
As if those lips of adamant might tell
How countless kingdoms conquered, rose and fell.
Their story is the same:—on Belus' wall
A mystic hand hath traced the doom of all;
And oft, the night of riot, blood and crime
Hath sealed the doom of many a haughty clime;
Or luxury and pride, with drowsy reign,
Have bound the strength of thrones with fatal chain!
Ah, there are voices, speaking from the gloom
That holds the past within its mighty tomb;
Again, a writing on the wall appears,
To waken up the slumb'ring nations' fears;
And must'ring squadrons, coming from afar,
Rush dread as thunders to the shock of war,
And, shrouded in the battle's smoke and fire,
The trampling legions struggle and expire!
God help thee, Liberty, and wake thy might
To battle with the giant Muscovite—
Until from far, where sleeps the iron sea,
Unto Italia's plains, the world is *free*—
Free from the mitred sway, that lives on tears
And blood of men, a thousand groaning years!

Claysville, Washington County, Pa, 1858.

THE FARMER.

[We will send the "Dollar Newspaper" gratuitously, for one year, to all who will become occasional contributors to this department of the paper. At the expiration of the year it will be discontinued, unless our attention is called to a renewal.]

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

CULTIVATION.

"Any given quantity of land well tilled is better than twice the amount poorly tilled."—*Popular Maxim.*

I do not recollect of having seen any special investigation of the points presented in the following communication, though, for years, the subject has occupied my attention.

It seems that quite a difference of opinion prevails respecting the advantages arising from the cultivation of various quantities of land relatively, including, also, the *manner* of its cultivation. I think the sentiment is generally conceded, that a small amount, well tilled, is more profitable than twice or thrice the given amount but half tilled; or upon which is bestowed but one-half the amount of labor.

To a certain extent, this is correct, and its application is wisely made where the theory is borne out by practical utility. In countries densely populated—where labor is abundant and cheap, and land scarce—the theory is sustained to the letter; but in a country like our Western States, where labor is scarce and dear, and land plenty, and of a strong soil, naturally, it cannot hold good. In England, France, or Germany, where any amount of labor may be had at trifling cost, the soil may be brought to its highest state of perfection in its productive powers; in which it will yield all the amount of crop of which it is capable, or can be made so. The supposition, then, to till twice a given amount of land at half, or far less expense of labor, proportionably, than one-half that amount would require, would be a grand error. It would only prove a waste of one-half the product of the soil.

But to reverse the case: It is a well known fact, that our Western lands will yield a fair crop with no culture except the bare breaking up or turning over the turf. In many cases, from 30 to 50 bushels of Indian corn have been produced by no farther process. The cost would be about $3 per acre, besides planting—say $4, including the latter; and the crop would be worth, at 25 cents per bushel, an average price, from $7 50 to $12 50, making a clear profit of from $3 50 to $8 50 per acre.

To bring this same soil to its highest powers of fructification, as far as tests have proved, about 100 bushels would be its greatest yield. The value, therefore, would be $25. But the labor necessary to produce this would cost, say $6 for preparing the ground—then it would require three plowings, which would be $3, three hoeings, $6; amounting to $15. This leaves $10 net yield in favor of what we may call "full cultivation." And this largely stipulated yield will fall short much oftener than the stipulated 50 bushels will, on the sod. But we can see where the advantage is between bringing which of the soil $25, at $15 cost, or $12 50 at $4 cost? The advantage is a balance of $6 in favor of the sod corn!

But to break and plant two acres of sod would cost $8; and at the same ratio the yield would be the same of the one acre fully tilled. This would leave a balance of $17 in favor of the two acres of half tilled land!

Take another case: One man can till, with two horses, 40 acres of corn in the ordinary way of tilling. This is often done in the West. And the yield will be 40 to 80 bushels to the acre, according to the season. Say, an average of 50, and the aggregate will be 1200 bushels, worth $300. But how much could one man cultivate in such a manner as to produce 100 bushels to the acre of ordinary prairie land? It will require hoeing at least three times, besides all the plowing that will prove of any utility. And it will require the soil to be perfectly pulverized, and, indeed, to be stirred almost constantly, to effect it. I will venture the opinion that four acres would keep one man busy with his two horses to apply all the labor that the soil would be susceptible of, with profit. If we make this the standard, the result would be 400 bushels of corn. That this is not far from the truth, every discriminating and practical farmer will be ready to concede. In favor of the "half cultivation" system, then, in *our* country, we have the advantage of 800 bushels of corn, or $200, arising from the labor of one man and his team, in one season! From this, it is seen, that a large area of land farmed in an ordinary way will produce more than a smaller amount with the same amount of labor expended upon it, and that the maxim in the caption above is not applicable to our western country, where labor is scarce and dear, and land so abundant, and naturally with so strong and fertile a soil. Yours, as ever, A. G. M.

Mont Meacham, Ill., 1861.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

PATENT OFFICE AGRICULTURAL REPORTS.

Their Origin, Uses and Defects.

The idea of publishing an annual Report on Agriculture, as a part and parcel of our national policy, originated, it seems, with the Hon. Henry L. Ellsworth, about 22 years ago. And as Mr. Ellsworth was then *Commissioner of Patents*, the business of preparing the first report was entrusted to him. And hence the connexion still existing between Agriculture and our United States Patent Office. (See Ag. Report of 1857, pp. 24 and 25.)

In 1839, Congress, upon the recommendation of Mr. Ellsworth, appropriated $1000 out of the National Treasury to pay the expenses of preparing and reporting to Congress, for general use, a suitable report on Agriculture, combined with the usual Mechanical Report. The $1000 was expended in furnishing three Agricultural Reports, that for 1839 containing 54 pages of printed matter; that for 1840, 60 pages; and that for 1841, 84 pages. In 1842, Congress appropriated another $1000 for the same purpose, and the report for that year contained 174 pages. And as our rural population now began to appreciate this new movement in our national policy, Congress, in 1843, appropriated $2000 for the publication of a more enlarged report. And the report for 1843 accordingly embraced 522 pages. And a like appropriation of $2000 in 1844 gave us a report for that year of 710 pages. About this time "*the Potato-rot*" disease was producing extensive loss in this valuable crop, both in Europe and in America. And hence the appropriation of $3000 made by Congress in 1845 was expended in giving us two reports, that for 1845 containing 1376, and that for 1846 only 396 pages. Much the largest portion of these reports was confined to an investigation and discussion of the various supposed causes of the potato-rot—a disease which has now happily become so greatly diminished as to have lost its terrors. In 1847, Congress appropriated $3000, and to render the work still more valuable and durable, now ordered the Agricultural Report to be *bound* up in good cloth or muslin—a mode of binding adhered to in these reports ever since that period. This first bound volume of 1847 contained 1004 pages. For each of the years of 1848 and 1849 Congress made an appropriation of $3500, and the report for 1848 contained 1142, and that for 1849 only 574 pages. For in 1849 the Agricultural portion of the annual report of the Commissioner of Patents was *separated* from the Mechanical branch of it, and published by *itself alone*. And the annual Agricultural Report has remained a separate affair ever since. In 1850, Congress appropriated $4500, and in 1851, $5500, which gave us a report for 1850 of 536, and for 1851 of 676 pages. In 1852 and 1853, they appropriated $5000 for each year, which gave us a report for each of said years, of 448 pages. In 1854, Congress went a step farther, by authorizing the purchase, importation and dissemination of choice field and garden seeds, the products of foreign climes, and appropriating $35,000 for the purpose. The Agricultural Report for this year contained 560 pages. In 1855, Congress appropriated $25,000, which continued this seed-dissemination system, and gave us an Agricultural book of 550 pages. And the whole country now appreciated this seed-procuring system to such an extent that Congress, in 1856, appropriated $105,000 to carry it into effect on a liberal scale. And they followed it up in 1857 with an appropriation of $63,500, and in 1858 with an appropriation of $60,000 for the continuance of the system. And the consequence was that a very large amount, and also a very great variety, of all kinds of seeds, both foreign and domestic, were collected and distributed by our Patent Office and by our Congressmen "into every nook and corner" of our land, for experiment or trial. And although many of these seeds were either worthless when bought in foreign lands, or lost their vitality through careless management in their passage to this country on ship-board, or when here, passed into hands that did not give them a fair trial for success, and so were lost, yet enough of them have survived all over our country, and done so well, and even promise to improve among us, that the money so spent has, upon the whole, been very wisely and very usefully spent. Would to God we could say the same thing of the many millions of dollars annually appropriated by Congress for *other* things—but we can't say so with even the semblance of truth. Our Agricultural Reports for the years 1856, 1857, and 1858, contained 552 pages each. I am not able to state the amount of money appropriated by Congress in 1859 for Agricultural purposes. But William D. Bishop, the then Commissioner of Patents, speaks of it as "*a reduced* appropriation made by Congress for Agricultural purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860." (See Ag. Report of 1859, page 3.) And it appears that it was a reduced appropriation, as there was no longer any necessity for the importation of foreign seeds for distribution on a large scale. The Agricultural Report for 1859, however, a copy of which is now before me, contains 590 pages of reading matter. This historical sketch of the origin, progress and present state of what may be called the Agricultural Department of our United States Government will be interesting to your readers, and enable them to understand this subject clearly and satisfactorily. I have a full set of these bound volumes, including that of 1847, down to 1860. And I am, perhaps, the only man in the county where I reside who has a complete set of said bound reports. And although I have not read everything embraced within their pages, and, very likely, never shall do so, yet I think I can say that I have read most of their contents as carefully, and perhaps as thinkingly, as any other man has done.

And now, what good have these Reports done us as a nation for the last twenty-one years, for they cover that period of time? That is the question—and it is a very important one, not only to the tillers of the soil, but to the mere consumer of breadstuffs, and to every legislator and statesmen in our land. And to answer this question fully would occupy more time and space than I can now devote to the subject. Still, I will throw out a few brief hints that may serve to direct the reader's mind to what I conceive to be the uses and defects of these reports, so that he may form a pretty correct estimate of their value. So far as *practical* Agriculture is concerned, these reports embrace a very large amount of useful information in relation to the culture of wheat, corn, oats, rye, buckwheat, barley, potatoes, rice, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, hemp, flax, and fruit, including the budding and grafting of fruit trees. So they embrace a considerable amount of useful information in relation to horses, mules, asses, cows, oxen, sheep, hogs, poultry, the culture of peas, beans, turnips, pumpkins, hops, indigo, grapes, and the tea-plant, and of clover, timothy, red-top, orchard grass and a few other grasses, and also of bees, the breeding of fish, the production of wool, and the irrigation and draining of soils—and also in regard to the various manures or fertilizers, to wit: ashes, barn-yard and stable manure, bone-dust, charcoal, fish, guano, lime, magnesia, marl, muck, night-soil, plaster, poudrette, salt, &c. So they contain some information as it regards the birds and insects that are injurious, and also of those that are beneficial, to the husbandman and fruit grower; and also as it regards the subject of climatology, meteorology, dairying, the soiling of cattle, hedges or live-fences, &c. And all of this information is more or less valuable, because it embodies the results of the actual experience of practical, and, in some cases, of scientific men, who have generously and patriotically communicated their knowledge upon those subjects to our General Government for the general good of our nation. But these reports, good as they are in these respects, are very defective in those *more abstruse* or scientific branches of human knowledge that lie at the very foundation of successful husbandry. For they have, so far, done but little, very little, in making us acquainted with the true causes of the exhaustion of our soils, and the cheapest, quickest and best modes of improving or renovating our exhausted or worn out soils. So they have failed to impart to us a proper knowledge of the design of our Creator in causing the earth to produce weeds, and of the nature and real value, instead of injuriousness of weeds, when properly understood and properly managed. So they have failed to point out to us what rotation of crops will do best in the long run, upon our various soils—and what is the best way of planting and growing forest trees for the purpose of timber, and what is the best season of the year for cutting the different timber trees to secure the strongest and most durable timber for ship and house building, and otherwise—and what are the best methods of managing our natural and scientific meadows, so as to render them largely and permanently productive—and what are the best ways of increasing, preserving and using our various animal manures for the enrichment of our soils. So these reports are greatly defective in not imparting to us a proper knowledge of our various grapes, both native and foreign, their relative productiveness and value as a food for cattle—and also in not imparting to us sufficient knowledge of the different breeds of cattle, with the cheapest and best modes of breeding, feeding and fattening of cattle. So the knowledge which these reports give us of birds, (Ornithology,) and of insects, (Entomology,) and of Climatology and Meteorology, is far too limited and indefinite, and withal far too learned and scientific, and also remote from practical bearings, to enable our plain rural population to understand and derive the advantages derivable from these interesting branches of the natural sciences.

We have repeatedly been told that the forthcoming Agricultural Report either was, or was going to be, far more valuable than any of its predecessors. And yet, when we have come to the reading of its pages, we have only done so to meet with manifest and sore disappointment. For our agriculturists, all over the country, are all anxiously looking forward for *something new*, that will secure them increased benefits and advantages in all the departments of their agricultural art, as it is believed that we have not yet attained perfection in any one of said departments. And their sense of this want, this imperfection, is so strong that there is no use in attempting to conceal or disguise the fact. But so long as those whose business it is to prepare materials for and publish this annual report continue giving us nothing but *old ideas* in a new dress—ideas that have been repeated over and over again this way for the thousandth time, there must and will be disappointment. The head of our United States Agricultural Department should, therefore, be a man who is fully booked up in the agricultural knowledge of the day, and one who, while he understands, and is unflinchingly conservative of all our sound agricultural principles now known, will yet press forward boldly, but cautiously, into new regions of thought, and so lead thinking minds into new and improved ways of farm culture. Such a man will, indeed, make some mistakes, some gross blunders, as this is unavoidable on the part of all those who aim at enlarging and perfecting human knowledge in any art or science; but with all these occasional mistakes, blunders or drawbacks, there will be real progress—a newness, attractiveness and vigorousness of thought that will command the attention and scrutiny of our ablest theoretical and practical minds, and so cannot but do good. But I must stop, as this communication is already longer than I had intended to make it. A PENNSYLVANIAN.

Northumberland Co., Jan., 1861.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

FLORAL ORNAMENTS.

HANGING BASKETS.—There are a great many of your lady readers who are fond of cultivating flowers, and who especially delight in a few floral pets to amuse them during the long winter when the earth is desolate, and anything that reminds one of the "living green of summer" is pleasant. To such I would recommend the growing of plants in hanging baskets, as several kinds can be grown together, and they are also more appropriate to decorate the window of a sitting-room, or parlor, than plants grown in pots. A basket planted with a good selection of trailing plants growing thrifty, is a very graceful and beautiful object, and it is of very easy accomplishment. First, as to the kind of basket. If you do not wish to go to any expense, you can manufacture one yourself out of pieces of rough bark, or a small box covered with acorns, pine corns, &c., looks very rustic and appropriate, and, in fact, taste and ingenuity can invent a great many inexpensive designs, but they can be bought for a trifle at the seed stores. Only be careful, if you get up a design of your own, to leave a hole in the bottom of the basket for drainage, as that is indispensable. And now, if you have your basket, put in the bottom some broken pieces of flower-pots, or river pebbles, and then some light, spongy, sandy soil; in this insert your plants, and give the whole a good wetting to settle the soil well around the roots, and if you keep it in a warm room be particular about wetting it every day; morning is the best time, as the earth soon dries. There are a great many plants suitable for hanging baskets, anything that has a trailing character will answer. Those that live within reach of a green-house can have a choice of a variety of plants. I would recommend the following: Senecio Scandens, Sedum Seaboldii, Kennilworth Ivy, Fradescantia, Sycopodium Denticulatum. The wax plant, Ice Plant, Zebra Plant, Periwinkles, Mock Strawberry, Toadflax, Love Entangle, Partridge Berry, Ground Ivy, and a great many others. The above, however, are most suitable, and can be recommended. C. S. H.

Philadelphia, Pa., 1861.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

SOWING TOBACCO SEEDS, ETC.—*Hawkins County, Tenn.*—First of all the ground selected for the purpose must be put in order. My plan is to use new ground and burn it hard, then dig it well, but not too deep, say four inches, and manure with well-rotted manure, and work it into the ground with a rake; then get a hogshead, or some large vessel, and fill it a little over half full of manure, and then fill it with water for the purpose of watering the plants. As for the time for sowing, the best is to get them in soon, say, from the first of January until the 14th of February, but not later if possible. G. H. P.

WINTER CHERRY SEED.—*Hunterdon County, N. J.*—Your correspondent, "J. B., Bernville, Berks county, Pa., wishes to know where he an obtain seed of the Winter Cherry. I would ay that I have a small quantity of the seed, and if "J. B.," wishes to raise the fruit, I will send him some of the seed, provided he will send me his address, and enclose a three-cent Post-office stamp to prepay the postage. It is a valuable fruit for preserving. It should have a place in every garden.

CHARLES B. HIGGINS,
Sergeantsville, Hunterdon County, N. J.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

WINTER CARE OF HENS.

I generally keep from thirty to forty hens. I always have plenty of good, fresh eggs in the winter. I am sometimes asked, how it is that our hens lay all winter, while our neighbors have no eggs till near spring? I answer, it is *the reward of care*. For the benefit of some of your readers, I will give you what I think is the best mode of treating them: First.—They should have a comfortable roost. Second.—They should have all the corn they can eat; other grain occasionally is good, as a change. Or what is better to make them *lay*, is corn meal wet with boiling water, with a good sprinkle of red pepper in it. Let them fill their crops once a day with this, as warm as they can eat it, and it will well pay. Third.—They should have access to plenty of gravel and lime. Fourth.—They should have fresh meat boiled and chopped fine once in three or four days. Readers of the "Newspaper," try this method, and I think you will be rewarded.

Bradford County, Pa., 1861. D. W.

SCIENCE AND ART.

INVENTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

METALLIC SAND.—It appears, by an account published in the Australian papers, that a metallic sand of peculiar value is found along the shores of New Plymouth, in Taranaki. This sand has the appearance of fine steel filings, and if a magnet be dropped upon it and taken up again, the instrument is found to be thickly coated with the iron granules. It has been carefully analyzed by English metallurgists, and has been pronounced the purest iron ore at present known; it contains 88.45 of peroxyd of iron, 11.43 of oxyd of titanium, with silica, and only twelve of waste, in one hundred parts. Taking the sand as it lies on the beach, and smelting it, the produce is sixty-one per cent. of iron of the very finest quality. And again, if this sand be subjected to the cementation process, the result is a tough, first class steel, which, in its properties, seems to surpass any other description of that metal at present known.

The investigations of metallurgical science have found that if titanium is mixed with iron, the character of the steel is materially improved; but, titanium being a scarce ore, such a mixture is too expensive for ordinary purposes. Here, however, nature supplies all this. The fineness of this beautiful sand is so great that it passes readily through an azure sieve of nearly five thousand holes or interstices to the square inch. A series of tests have been made in regard to the temper and other qualities of the steel produced from this sand, with the best results. An official experiment is expected to be made at one of the government establishments shortly.

COTTON DYEING.—Cotton and linen yarns and cloths have nearly the same affinity for dyes. After they have acquired the proper degree of whiteness, they are still unfit to receive and retain the dyes in a permanent manner. It is necessary, before dipping them into the dye-tub, to get rid of the substances which enclose the coloring particles within their cavities or pores, and to communicate such chemical properties as will fix these particles so that they will not separate, to whatever ordinary trial they may be subjected. All the colors which it would be desirable to transfer to these stuffs, unfortunately, do not possess this permanence. Men of science engaged in this important art have constantly aimed at the discovery of some new processes which may transfer into the class of fast colors those dyes which are at present more or less fugitive. Almost all the goods manufactured of cotton, flax or hemp are intended to be washed, and ought, therefore, to be so dyed as to resist the alkaline and soapy solutions commonly used in the laundry. Vitalis distinguished dyed cottons into three classes. First, the fugitive, or fancy-colored, which change their hue or are destroyed by one or two boils with soap; second, those which resist five or six such washings with soap, and are good dyes—and those which are still more durable, such as Turkey reds, are called fast colors. The colors of Brazil-wood, logwood, annatto, safflower, etc., are fugitive; those made with madder without an oily base are good; and those made of madder with an oily mordant are fast—these being the regularly acknowledged distinctions.

NEW RAILWAY BRAKE.—The London Mining Journal says that Captain Galton's report to the committee of the House of Lords proves, amongst other things, that a system of railway brakes, to be efficient, should provide for the simultaneous application of the brake power to several cars of a train, and should be no obstacle to the interchange of cars among railway companies. To these must be added moderate cost, efficiency of action, and simplicity of construction—all these various qualities combined. According to the Journal, Mr. W. Hull, of London, claims to have produced a brake which, by means of a peculiar arrangement of the screw and lever, is enabled to fulfill all the requirements of the case. The brake handle is affixed to the top of a vertical axis, upon which is fixed a screw taking into a toothed wheel firmly fastened on a horizontal axis, provided with a screw for carrying a female screwed collar, connected by a rod to a rocking lever, which throws the brake blocks against the wheel. The action is gradual, and the power is irresistible, and, by a self adjusting socket-joint, the brakes upon every car are connected with each other, every brake handle when the train is made up. So immense is the power which can be applied upon the brakes by the turning of the brake handle, that a heavy train may be stopped by the simplest force.

MACHINERY FOR SPINNING COTTON.—The London Quarterly Review, in an article upon cotton spinning machines and their inventors, thus illustrates the productiveness of brain and hand, by showing what machines now enable the cotton-spinner to do with a pound of cotton. A manufacturer of Manchester exports what is called No. two hundred and forty yarn in large quantities, for the use of the finest foreign muslin manufacturers. Of the fineness of this thread some idea may be formed from the statement made that two hundred and forty hanks, each eight hundred and fifty yards in length, are spun from a single pound weight of cotton, or a total length of one hundred and fourteen miles. But this does not by any means exhaust the capabilities of this kind of machinery; for at the great exhibition held in London ten years ago, there were several specimens of spun yarn exhibited, so fine as No. seven hundred, or equal to three hundred and thirty-four miles in length—spun from one pound of material. Worked up into the finer kinds of lace, the original shilling's worth of cotton wool, before it passes the hands of the consumer, may be increased to the value of between fifteen hundred and two thousand dollars.

METHODS OF PRESERVING FOOD.—One of the most remarkable discoveries of modern times, is that of compressing vegetables for their preservation. According to this process, the most bulky, soft and succulant vegetables, are reduced to a fraction of their volume, and are preserved in a dry indestructible state. After boiling for a rather longer time than usual, they are restored to something of their original form and consistence, retaining all their nutritious principles and much of their flavor. According to a statement published in the *Comptus Rendus*, as read before the Paris Academy, the vegetables are reduced seven-eighths in weight, and proportionally in bulk; they require to be heated one hour and a half to one and three-quarters, and on cooling are found to have regained nearly all their evaporated juices.

INDIA COTTONS.—It is an almost universal characteristic of the India cottons, that though in some cases the fibre is beautifully fine, it is invariably short, badly cleaned, and injured by careless collection, bad packing, and faulty inland transit. These short staple cottons of India cannot be compared with the long staple cotton of our own country, they are, in fact, quite different fibres, must be treated in a different manner, and their uses are perfectly dissimilar. A great practical question has long been agitated, whether by care and attention, by judicious cultivation, improved mechanical contrivances and the application of skill and perseverance, it may not be possible so to improve the common East India cottons as to give to them those characters and properties which will render them of more value to the manufacturer.

SILICIOUS STONES.—The ornamental or precious stones, known by the term silicious, are the emerald, the garnet, the hyacinth, the opal, and the amethyst. The emerald is, next to the ton maline, the hardest of all substances. A stone weighing one hundred carats is worth about as many dollars. Next in hardness is the hyacinth, which, though it is so classed, is not in reality a silicious stone, containing, as it does, zirconia in excess. It consists of two parts in weight of zirconia and one of silex. The hyacinth is not a stone of much value. The hyacinth of commerce is often confounded with cinnamon stone, a variety of garnet.

THE PRIVATE OF THE BUFFS.

BY SIR F. H. DOYLE.

"Some Seiks, and a private of the Buffs, having remained behind with the grog-carts, fell into the hands of the Chinese. On the next morning they were brought before the authorities and commanded to perform the *kotow*. The Seiks obeyed; but Moyse, the English soldier, declaring that he would not prostrate himself before any Chinaman alive, was immediately knocked upon the head, and his body thrown on a dunghill.—*China Correspondent of the London Times*

Last night, among his fellow roughs,
He jested, quaffed, and swore;
A drunken private of the Buffs,
Who never looked before.
To day, beneath the foeman's frown
He stands in Elgin's place,
Ambassador from Britain's crown,
And type of all her race.

Poor, reckless, rude, low-born, untaught,
Bewildered, and alone,
A heart, with English instinct fraught,
He yet can call his own.
Aye, tear the medal from his breast,
Bring cord, or axe, or flame;
He only knows, that not through *him*
Shall England come to shame.

Far Kentish hop-fields round him seemed,
Like dreams to come and go;
Bright leagues of cherry blossoms gleamed
One sheet of living snow;
The smoke, above his father's door,
In grey soft eddyings hung:
Must he, then, watch it rise no more,
Doomed by himself, so young?

Yes! honor calls with strength like steel,
He puts the vision by.
Let dusky Indians whine and kneel
An English lad must die.
And thus, with eyes that would not shrink,
With knee to man unbent,
Unfaltering on its dreadful brink,
To his red grave he went.

Vain, mightiest fleets of iron framed;
Vain, those all-shattering guns;
Unless proud England keep untamed,
The strong heart of her sons.
So, let his name through Europe ring—
A man of mean estate,
Who died as firm as Sparta's king,
Because his soul was great.

Macmillan's Mag.

MISCELLANEOUS.

[Correspondence of the Dollar Newspaper.]

LETTER FROM OUR JAPAN CORRESPONDENT

The Embassy, who and what they are—The No-Kamis Nobodies—"Tommy" less than Nobody—Townsend Harris' Big Stories—The Future Commerce of Japan—How Foreign Merchants are Encouraged.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Gentlemen—Late advices from the East tell us of the arrival of the Niagara in the Bay of Yedo, and of the safe landing of the Japanese without the firing of joyous guns, or the welcoming of waving banners.

It was my own fortune to land in Japan a few days previous to the date of their departure for this country, in the Powhatan, and I remained there until the 1st of the following November, which was just ten days before they got back; thus, while they were here I was there, and it is my present purpose to write a column or two of truthful odds and ends, which will, I trust, show a great many people how dearly we Americans have paid for another whistle.

I believe that my own letters to the Ledger, published during the late cruise of the Powhatan, had much to do with exciting an interest in the minds of my countrymen regarding the matter of an embassy, and I also believe that many of those letters were written entirely too rapidly. For instance: Taking it for granted that information derived from such a person as Mr. Townsend Harris, our minister, would be reliable, I always used it freely; but a subsequent residence of nine months in the country afforded me the opportunity of seeing, hearing, and judging for myself; and I was really surprised—most disagreeably so—to see not only how many wrong conclusions Mr. Townsend Harris had jumped at, but how much really false information he had found it to his interest to disseminate. For instance: The three principal men composing the late embassy were locked upon as magnates of the land, whereas they were in reality nothing but Governors of imperial cities. Now, had Mr. Townsend Harris succeeded, only a sending an embassy of *coolies* to this country, it would have been a national insult, and Mr. T. H. would have received abuse instead of credit; whereas, had he been able to get the Tycoon himself to leave his throne (*i. e.* straw mat), and cross the ocean to bow, and laugh, and rustle in silks, around and among us, his reward would have been great in proportion. Mr. T. H., therefore, did very right (so far as he, Mr. T. H., was himself concerned) to give the American people to understand that the three great men of the embassy were also three great men of Japan, but, unfortunately, there was no truth in it. The "Princes" who were imposed upon the public as first-class men, were indeed Princes, but of such a low order that in passing a Damio they fall upon their faces and bump their heads as rapidly as a breakneck pace. I will venture the assertion that had one of those Damios been requested by the Emperor [illegible] to the United States, at the head of an embassy, he would have taken it as an insult instead of a compliment. Put that in your pipe and puff away Jonahs! It is unquestionably true.

And "Tommy," the favorite of the ladies! Shall I tell you, ladies, who and what he was and is?

It was a brother officer of mine, one who, like myself, left the navy to find a living in Japan, who was so unfortunate as to call the young interpreter, Onagero, by the endearing cognomen of "Tommy." And when the ladies (!) of Washington and other places were backing and filling around him, after the manner of so many coopers around a beef barrel, we used to read the papers over more than once, and wonder whether it was all true, or whether editorial fun was not being poked at us across the great water. It was so hard to believe that it could be the pleasant faced, but unquestionably also the *dirty* faced "Tommy," of the Yokohama Custom House, who was thus being discovered by the fair sex of our country. Yes, ladies! while breathing the air of his native heath, "Tommy" was a very dirty little boy; and now that he has returned, advices from that quarter tell me that he has taken off his holiday garments, and resumed his *former appearance*. *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

But the embassy *and* "Tommy" are no longer objects of importance to the American people. It is the *future commerce of Japan*, which this Embassy was to benefit so greatly, that now comes before us.

People unacquainted with Japanese character, and with the fact of our having already been insulted by their sending men of a low rank to be presented to our President, promised American commerce large benefits as results from this Embassy. They made a mistake in the first place by supposing that there was a *republican mind* in that country to be favorably impressed by the attentions here lavished upon their representatives; and they further deceived themselves by imagining that there was anything in Japanese character upon which such an emotion as gratitude, or thankfulness, could take hold. There will be but one good result from the experience of that Embassy, and even that will require ships of war to nourish it into fruition. *The Japanese Government will receive a full report regarding the power of our country, and if we can but impress it with the conviction that we are ready to use that power in enforcing the honest fulfilment of its treaties with us*, the "*one good*" will be accomplished. "Fear of consequences" is really the only lever by which those government officials can be moved.

One would naturally suppose that the first impulse of the Japanese Government after the return of its Ministers, would be to inform the masses of the people of the very handsome manner in which they were treated here, and indulge in some congratulatory surmises as to the future benefits which were to flow to both countries from the intercourse thus opened; but alas! the masses of Japan—the people with whom we foreign merchants are thrown in contact, are there treated with no such consideration. The "two sworded" part of the population—those who strut in idleness, and who are fed by the labor of the masses, are the only ones who ever get any information from their travelled friends, and even they will get nothing official. The Emperors and the leading men of the Empire only will be fully informed, and they will make public only such items as they may deem proper. Did those officials wish to secure large trade between the two countries, they would undoubtedly tell the people everything, but as we know very well, and beyond a doubt, that most of those in authority, are in reality opposed to the opening of a large trade, the inference is that they will circulate *false* information that will act against trade rather than the *true* information which would unquestionably advance its interests. I will cite a few of the many instances which occurred during my residence there as a merchant, and which indicate an unmistakable hostility to the encouragement of a free and extended trade upon the part of the Government.

Instance 1st. Foreign merchants were making large shipments of copper to China. It cost at Yokohama some 16 cents per pound, and commanded a ready sale in China at 25 cents. Of course the profits were large; so large that the shipments increased to the extent of the supply. Suddenly, however, the native merchants raised their price from 16c. to 26c., and the shipments, of course, ceased. For months we could not imagine why the native merchants would not sell at any figure under 26c., but finally the cat escaped out of the bag—*the Government had ordered all merchants to pay a tax of* $10 *upon every hundred pounds of copper* which they should sell to foreign merchants. Hence, to save their own pockets, they had to add that $10 to the price asked for every hundred pounds.

Instance 2d. Among other imports (mostly for foreign use) was an article of butter. Arrived here, butter, put up in ten pound kegs, and a dozen or more of said kegs headed up in a hogshead, after which pickle was poured in through the bung. This was to preserve it, and of course the hogsheads should not be opened until the butter was wanted for use. *I have known the Custom House officers at Yokohama to insist upon opening every individual keg, a dozen or more in such hogsheads, refusing to select one here and there, as is the custom in other parts of the world.* Of course the lot was sold at a great sacrifice!

Instance 3d. Many other imports for foreign use, such as preserved meats, valuable clothes, etc., etc., are sent in air tight tins. These they invariably open—searching for—what? The result, however, is the same: immediate depreciation in the value of the article.

Instance 4th. Our treaty provided that the American dollar should be equal to *its weight of Japanese silver*, which was something over three itchibu. For several months this was pretty much the case—the native merchant taking $1 rather than 3 itchibu three. Suddenly, however, they refused to receive the dollar for more than *two* itchibu; *thus subtracting just one third from the* (local) *value of the money in the safes of every foreign merchant in the place.* This was of course a death blow to everything like trade—and indeed, at the time I left the country, (Oct. 30th, 1860,) scarcely any foreigner in Yokohama was making his daily expenses. Many were losing money, and the general impression was, that unless the dollar recovered, nothing more was to be done.

Now, to what does the reader attribute this sudden fall of the dollar? Does he suppose that the native merchants became all at once avaricious, and wished to get it cheaper? Far from it! It rested entirely with the Government, who *actually*, in open violation of their treaty, and to the great loss of the foreign community, *issued a Government notice to the effect that the dollar was only worth two itchibu.* Now, what object had the Government to issue such a notice? Here it lies in a nutshell.

Seeing that there were some fifteen million dollars in the hands of the native merchants, they said, "bring us those fifteen million dollars and we will pay you two itchibu each." The merchants trembling to obey, receive their two itchibu each, and ever thereafter refuse to receive dollars from foreigners for more than that, *for fear* that the Government will again come down on them. In the meantime, the Government receives their fifteen million dollars into forty-five million itchibu, and comes out *fifteen millions ahead.* Of course these figures are given in round numbers, but they serve to explain the rascality of the Government, and the cause for the low value of our dollar in Japan.

And now, our advices from that country tell us what?

"That the Ministers have given up the currency question, determined to let the dollar find its own level," instead of saying to the Government, "respect your treaty, or stand the consequences." A. W. H.

THE GREAT GOVERNMENT SWINDLE.

OVER $6,000,000 ABSTRACTED.

By Ex-Secretary Floyd, W. H. Russell, Godard Bailey, and other Officials.

EXPOSURE OF THE WHOLE PLAN OF ROBBERY.

The select committee, to whom was referred the resolution of the House, adopted on the 9th day of December last, directing them to inquire into and report the facts in relation to the fraudulent abstraction of certain bonds held by the Government in trust for the Indian tribes, from the Department of the Interior, and to whom were also referred the communication of the Hon. John B. Floyd, late Secretary of War, and the letter of the Hon. Robert McClelland, late Secretary of the Interior, have submitted their report.

The report opens by describing the bonds, United States stocks and certificates, which were abstracted. They were held in trust for certain Indian tribes.

Under previous Administrations, the bonds were placed in the immediate charge of some clerk, selected for his integrity and capacity, who kept them in a safe in the Indian Office. No stamp or other mark of designation was placed upon any of them, with the exception of a small portion, and the only safeguard the Government had was the faithfulness and honesty of the person entrusted with their keeping. So careless a mode of transacting the public business, and administering a trust so delicate and important, astounds us by the magnitude of its folly. Neither the Commissioner of Indian Affairs nor the Secretary of the Interior ever counted the bonds in person, and the only information that either of them could have possessed touching their safety was the payment of the coupons every six months, and such examinations as they occasionally chose to order to be made by others. Fortunately for the Government, however, no loss was sustained during previous Administrations.

The report then speaks of Godard Bailey, the clerk in whose hands the bonds were placed, saying:—The evidence shows that Mr. Bailey came to Washington a bankrupt in fortune, and a political adventurer, seeking office. He brought with him, however, the highest testimonials of confidence and respect from various distinguished men in Alabama, where he lived, and in South Carolina, where he was born, and had previously resided.

THE ABSTRACTED BONDS.

All the stocks, including those that were abstracted, were kept in the room in the Interior Department, occupied by Mr. Bailey, in a safe, the key of which was in his sole possession. The extract marked "B" will show the character and respective amounts of the abstracted bonds, as well as the States by which they were issued, except in this—that the whole amount, as shown by said abstract, is $72 of $1000 each, when, in fact, Mr. Bailey delivered to Mr. William H. Russell, $70 only.

BAILEY AND RUSSELL'S NEGOTIATIONS.

The report goes on to show that W. H. Russell and Godard Bailey had negotiations during which Bailey delivered to Russell these bonds in instalments, both parties of course knowing that the bonds were not their property.

Mr. Bailey's motives for stealing the bonds are not clearly ascertained, but the Committee are, however, constrained to express the conviction that behind the events that have been made conspicuous, and beneath the exterior of the transactions that have been described, is a purpose which, although successfully hidden, was none the less powerful and efficient, and has given unity and vitality to the schemes now partially exposed.

MR. BAILEY'S CONFESSION.

A part of the evidence adduced is found